



## EDWARD HEATH

Bosnia is not worth the trouble

Air strikes would mean war, page 18



## GREEN CRUSADE

Shopping malls fall to the Rio rhythm

Out-of-town boom ends, page 10



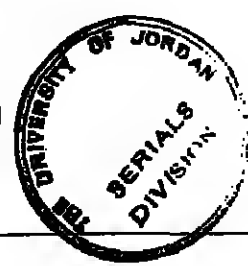
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Bias that is splitting the world of bowls

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# THE TIMES



No. 64,873

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8 1994

## Mystery surrounds death of rising star Tory MP



Milligan: recently promoted in Defence Ministry

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

MURDER squad detectives were last night investigating the mysterious death of the Conservative MP Stephen Milligan.

Mr Milligan, 45, was found dead at his west London home by his secretary yesterday afternoon after he failed to turn up for some appointments. She called the police and an ambulance.

Mr Milligan, a bachelor, lived alone in a terrace house flat in Black Lion Lane, Chiswick, and there was no sign of forced entry. The Home Office pathologist Dr Ian West was conducting a post mortem examination last night.

### Westminster colleagues stunned after secretary discovers body in Chiswick bachelor apartment

Police were keeping an open mind about the cause of death, but Det Supt Brian Edwards, a member of the west London detective team assigned to murder cases, went to the scene.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, meanwhile went to Hammersmith police station. He looked shocked, and said: "I have nothing to say until we know a little more."

MPs were aghast at the death of Mr Milligan, an able and ambi-

tious MP who had been a journalist on *The Sunday Times* and a BBC foreign correspondent before his election to the Commons in 1992.

Andrew Mackay, Mr Milligan's regional whip, discussed his future with him on Friday and found him to be relaxed and happy. "We talked about his future role, which parliamentary committees he might be interested in serving on, and which specialisms he wished to pursue. He seemed very contented. He was one of the most ambitious

of the new intake of MPs and clearly hoped to be a minister one day. I told him that we were very pleased with his work."

Mr Milligan's death is the latest in a series of blows to hit the Government since Christmas, including the resignation of the environment minister Tim Yeo and the suicide of Lady Cairness, wife of the former transport minister.

The Government now faces a potentially hazardous by-election in Eastleigh, Hampshire, where

Mr Milligan had a majority of 17,702. He secured 51 per cent of the vote and the Liberal Democrat candidate 28 per cent. A swing lower than that at Christchurch would reduce the Government's Commons majority still further.

Mr Milligan had only recently been promoted to the first rung of the ministerial ladder as the parliamentary private secretary to the defence procurement minister Jonathan Aitken.

Mr Aitken said last night: "Stephen Milligan was a rising parliamentary star. His sterling character, his intellectual ability and his formidable talent as a communicator had already marked him out for a distinguished

political career. I shall miss him with profound sadness both as a close friend and as an outstanding PPS. Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to Stephen's parents and relatives for their devastating loss."

Robert Key, roads minister and a near parliamentary neighbour in Salisbury, said: "He was a wonderful friend and neighbour to work with in our part of the country. I am deeply shocked."

David Martin, MP for Portsmouth, South, said: "I am very distressed and shocked. He made such a fine contribution to the parliamentary scene and he and he was such a nice man."

Man in the News, page 3

## Europe backs air strikes on Bosnian Serbs

By George Brock, Philip Webster and Our Foreign Staff

EUROPEAN foreign ministers edged towards military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday when they backed the use of air power to try to break the siege of Sarajevo. The move came after John Major had called for "immediate, effective and more muscular action" to end the bombardment of the city.

Douglas Hurd, who has always been most cautious about air strikes, said the massacre of 68 people in a market on Saturday had been a turning point in attitudes towards the war, and that the balance of risks and benefits of an allied air strike to halt the carnage was changing.

A decision on whether to use force now lies with Nato. Its ruling council will meet tomorrow to consider the EU's statement, the UN Secretary-General's request that preparations be made for air strikes, and reports from local commanders on the feasibility of military action. If the meeting agrees such action should be launched, the 16 member governments will be asked to sanction the strikes.

Formal approval would also be required from the UN Secretary-General, but since Boutros Boutros Ghali has already asked Nato to make ready, that appears a formality. In his letter to the Nato Secretary-General, Dr Boutros Ghali said: "The mortar attacks last week against civilian targets in Sarajevo, at least one of which has been estab-

lished by the UN Protection Force to be the work of Bosnian Serb forces, make it necessary to prepare urgently for the use of air strikes to deter further such attacks."

The Bosnian mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg were meanwhile still hoping for a negotiated agreement on the demilitarisation of Sarajevo after talks with the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic. He agreed to discuss a separate and temporary peace deal for the city, and the issue will be the highlight of Thursday's Geneva peace talks.

The announcement that Mr Karadzic is prepared to negotiate separately on Sarajevo signalled some Serb movement in the face of mounting demands for air strikes, but he remained defiant last night, saying that foreigners would not be safe in Bosnia if they went ahead.

The EU foreign ministers' decision came after five hours of talks in Brussels yesterday after which they issued a statement saying that Nato and the UN should try to lift the siege of Sarajevo "using all means necessary, including the use of air power". One experienced European diplomat said last night: "I think that, after a long time, air strikes really are more likely. We have reached the stage of asking ourselves how many people have to die each day before we do something. We may not carry out a long sequence of strikes, but maybe just one to show them that we mean business."

Mr Major at least is now convinced that it is essential that the UN and Nato make immediate plans to halt attacks on Sarajevo. "This is likely to require more muscular action than hitherto. Its

purpose must not be merely to punish or retaliate, but to improve the situation in Sarajevo," an official said. The Commons was told later that ministers were "fully prepared to see air power used if it will improve the situation".

Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary emphasised, however, that it would be up to Nato's military commanders to make the final decision. Mr Major said it would be folly to launch reprisals without the advice of the men on the ground—but it has been noted that Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, the commander of UN troops in Bosnia, has adopted a tougher line than his predecessors.

Even with the shift of attitude towards air strikes, some governments still strongly oppose taking action. Greece dissented from the EU statement within minutes of its being issued yesterday, saying that military intervention would achieve nothing and would lead to a Balkan war.

Russia, which like Greece has strong links with Serbia, was also firmly against air strikes. Andrei Kozirev, the Foreign Minister, said bombing the Serbs would be the least successful way to resolve the conflict. "It will escalate the violence. It will immediately signal the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers, and thus the strategy will go wrong."

The Pope, however, appeared to support tougher measures, when he issued a statement saying: "Try everything, even at the price of greater sacrifices, to arrive at an effective ceasefire."

High-risk choices, page 14  
Edward Heath, and Peter Brooke, page 18  
Letters, and Leading article, page 19

## Patients at risk in keyhole surgery

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

THIRTY women sterilised by a locum surgeon risk becoming pregnant after he botched the operation in one woman who is now a mother-to-be. An investigation into the mistake has highlighted the risks of keyhole surgery. The other 29 women have been told they need a "clinical review" to check the effectiveness of their sterilisation.

A Government report, slipped out unnoticed by the Scottish Office last month, says that patients have died or suffered serious injuries after keyhole surgery because new techniques are being introduced faster than surgeons can be trained to use them.

The report, by a group of specialists chaired by Professor Alfred Cuschieri, a pioneer of keyhole surgery, paints an alarming picture of untrained

surgeons trying procedures in which they have no experience, putting patients at risk. It was not released to the press in England and received no national coverage despite its serious implications.

The locum surgeon who performed the sterilisations at York District Hospital wrongly fitted the clips to block the Fallopian tubes in the woman who has become pregnant. York Health Services Trust general manager, Michelle Ritchie, said last night: "We want to know whether this was just a one-off error," she said. The surgeon has since left the hospital, and managers refuse to identify him or say where he is working now. The keyhole techniques, Continued on page 2, col 5

Body & Mind, page 17

## High Court judge bans Maxwell musical

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

A HIGH Court judge granted an injunction yesterday banning *Maxwell: the Musical* two weeks before its West End opening.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, won the injunction against the show's producers "on the basis that the musical would create a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the criminal trial" of Kevin and Ian Maxwell.

The ban means that no production can take place until after the Central Criminal Court trial of Maxwell's sons and four others. Kevin Maxwell, former chairman of Maxwell Communications, denies eight charges of conspiracy to defraud and Ian Maxwell, former chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, denies two charges of conspiracy to defraud.

It now seems that the musical, which charts the rise and fall of Robert Maxwell, will be scrapped. Evan Steadman, the former Maxwell employee who was its prime mover, said an appeal was unlikely, although he has spent £500,000 of his own money on the show. Even if it never goes ahead his costs could reach £1.1 million.

The ebullient producer emerged from the hearing before Mr Justice Bell looking unusually dour. "I am very disappointed," he said. "As of tomorrow morning we'll have to tell everybody involved that we cannot proceed." He estimated that 100 people would be put out of work.

Diary, page 18

## Shares fight back after biggest fall since 1987

By George Sivell, Assistant Business Editor

SHARES fell sharply in London and other financial centres yesterday in reaction to the rise in American interest rates signalled at the end of last week. But the FT-SE 100 Index recovered from a fall of almost 100 points to close 56.3 points down at 3,419.1.

The improving trend continued in New York with dealers saying that the huge fall on

Friday of 96 points was exaggerated. In early afternoon trading the Dow Jones index was up more than 12 points.

American investors, though concerned by higher interest rates, were still seeking bargains among US shares. In the face of the market fitters Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he found his forecast of economic growth this year of 2.5 per cent increasingly "modest". In an interview to

be published in today's *Le Figaro* he said that tax rises planned for April would not hold back economic recovery. "I can even confess to you my forecast made last November of growth at 2.5 per cent this year seems to me more and more modest, taking account of current trends in the economy," Mr Clarke added that the planned tax increase could hold back household consumption, but would not hinder the overall recovery. If the recovery became "more dependent on exports and investment, he would not be displeased."

Earlier, the move towards dearer money in America had caused large falls in both Hong Kong and Tokyo. Market-makers in London moved to counter any prospect of a sell-off by marking prices down savagely in the morning. But the threatened sell-off did not materialise and by the close of business 894 million shares had changed hands, well down on the billion-plus turnover achieved almost daily in the past few weeks.

At the low-point of the day £22 billion had been wiped off share values, the biggest fall in cash terms since the 1987 crash. But London brokers went home satisfied, saying that before the fall shares had begun to look expensive.

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Business News, page 23  
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Pennington, page 25  
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Tempos, page 27



Evan Steadman at the Criterion Theatre in the West End of London yesterday. His *Maxwell* musical had been due to open there on February 21

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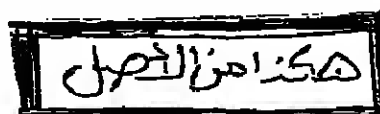


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## FO dispatches HMS Goodlad into unknown action

Sending Alastair Goodlad to spearhead a new Balkan policy of "muscular action" by the British Government is rather like sending out a dredger to signal the readiness of the fleet. The very word "muscular" dies on his lips. Mr Goodlad pronounces "action" as one might a very rude word which one had been brought up never to say. Onlookers at the Commons ended yesterday afternoon in utter confusion as to whether the dispatch of HMS Goodlad signalled an advance, a retreat, or an immensely subtle diversionary tactic.

Some of us suspected that this had little to do with

Bosnia and more to do with an unusually bitter skirmish in an equally intense minor civil war going on within Whitehall. In what must be accounted one of the more bizarre ministerial statements of recent years, Her Majesty's Foreign and Commonwealth Office did "as promised" confirm that FCO ministers are prepared for war. War on Her Majesty's Government. Or that is my theory.

Mr Goodlad, a Foreign Office minister, palely loitered at the Commons despatch box for half an hour, read out a prepared statement about Britain's readiness to sanction air strikes as though it were 30 lines he had



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

been ordered to recite as a punishment, then proceeded to question the judgment of every MP who offered him support, and agree with every backbencher who hinted that British involvement in Balkan hostilities would be a crazy gamble.

So what could all this mean? "... horror and outrage (ahem)," murmured Mr Goodlad. "... brutal, senseless, (ahem) ... vital importance ... maximum flexibility (ahem) ready to use airpower as required." Mr

Goodlad sounded about as ready to use airpower, as required, as the average railway commuter is ready to smash the glass and pull the communication cord, as required.

For Labour, Jack Cunningham urged Mr Goodlad to flex those muscles more vigorously. Goodlad looked at him with withering distaste, as a toff emerging from the opera might look at a loud-mouthed street bully challenging him to a fight.

Sir Russell Johnston, for

the Liberal Democrats, recommended airstrikes. Goodlad responded warily, unwilling even to say "Liberal Democrat". He launched into "diberal lemercat", then repeated.

When Labour's Peter Mandelson said: "Muscular action? How? When?" the minister looked at him as if the enquiry were completely absurd.

But when an MP on either side challenged HMG's new muscularity, Goodlad seemed to warm to the question. Michael Jopling (C) was complimented on the wisdom of his doubts. Sir Nicholas Bonsor (C) found ready assent to his concern about the new dangers that British

troops might now face.

A number of theories about the deployment of this unusual man-of-war at the despatch box are possible. One is that the Goodlad is aimed, not at Serbia, but at Downing Street, whose initiative has taken the NCO in neighbouring King Charles Street by surprise. Another is that the "muscular action" initiative was a communications error, and the Goodlad is engaged in a strategic withdrawal.

The final theory is that the Goodlad is an intentional decoy, designed to confuse Belgrade. I don't know whether Mr Goodlad confuses the enemy, but by God he confused the House of Commons.

Former diplomat breaks silence on dam

## Aid 'written into' agreement on arms deal with Malaysia

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

A BRITISH arms deal with Malaysia was linked to aid which was used to finance the controversial Pergau dam project, according to a senior diplomat who was in Kuala Lumpur at the time.

The linkage, which was contrary to government guidelines on aid and trade, was rescinded three months later. Sir Nicholas Spreckley, who was High Commissioner to Malaysia between 1986 and 1991, said last night. He confirmed that the protocol outlining arms contracts worth £1.3 billion had had a specific reference to aid written into it when it was signed in March 1988 by Lord Younger, the then Defence Minister.

Sir Nicholas speaking for the first time since the affair blew up, said: "That's why Lord Younger had to send the letter three months later in June to tell the Malaysians that aid could not be linked. He did so after consulting with ministers in London. He felt he had to send it."

Sir Nicholas, who retired when he left Malaysia in 1991, is likely to be a key witness at

the Foreign Affairs Select Committee hearings into the affair, which are due to begin in March. It is now believed that they will focus on a critical three-month period between March 1988, when the protocol on the arms deal was signed, and the following June, when Lord Younger wrote to the Malaysian government.

In October last year the National Audit Office produced a critical report of the way in which the Government had arranged the aid, ignoring technical and commercial advice from its civil servants. Then last month Sir Tim Lankaster, former permanent secretary to the Overseas Development Administration, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee that he was told to pay the money after Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, had discussed the matter with Mr Major.

Sir Nicholas was in Kuala Lumpur during the early phases of discussion on both deals. He had arrived in the dying phases of the "Buy British Last" campaign im-

posed by Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister. Sir Nicholas said last night: "It was almost over by the time I got there. People were keen to restore relations as we have a long history with that country and many of their people were educated over here."

He was reluctant to comment on many of the questions arising out of the affair since it was revealed that the British Government had granted £234 million of aid to the Malaysians to build the Pergau dam.

He said he could not remember whether he accompanied Baroness Thatcher during her negotiations in September 1988, when a memorandum of understanding was signed on the arms deal. "As officials, we were obviously heavily involved," he refused to comment on the advice given to Lord Younger before he had attended the earlier negotiations in March, which outlined the basics of the arms deal.

Peter Riddell, page 11



Det Supt Mike Semple yesterday with some of the 13 weapons which included Kalashnikov and ArmaLite rifles and eight sub machineguns found at a flat in Liverpool. He suspects they were for criminal rather than terrorist use.

## Reynolds positive on Sinn Fein response

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, sounded a note of optimism on the Ulster peace initiative yesterday when he said it was unlikely that Sinn Fein would reject the Downing Street declaration. Mr Reynolds said he hoped for a positive answer from the political wing of the IRA by the time he meets John Major in London on February 19.

Speaking in Dublin, Mr Reynolds said: "I can't see any possible justification for the continuation of violence or the taking of a single innocent life. I hope the leadership does take the enlightened decision to move away from violence and take up the political process."

Army bomb disposal experts defused a grenade left outside Sinn Fein offices in West Belfast by the Ulster Freedom Fighters. A Sinn Fein councillor said the party would not be intimidated by such attacks.

## Committals scrapped

Committal proceedings are to be scrapped. Serious cases will be sent directly for Crown Court trial without a magistrates' court hearing, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday. Committal will be replaced by a paper procedure for magistrates to decide whether a defendant has a case to answer. The move, recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in July, will save an estimated £30 million in court and legal aid costs. The change will affect 10 per cent of committals where there are still full hearings.

## Anti-nuclear protest

Hundreds of anti-nuclear protesters demonstrated outside the High Court yesterday as an appeal against authorisation of the Thorp nuclear reprocessing plant began. Greenpeace and Lancashire County Council are applying for a judicial review of authorisation of the plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, and to win a public enquiry. The Government's decision to give the go-ahead for the plant was legally flawed by an "irrational" failure to hold an enquiry, the court was told. Andrew Collins QC, for Greenpeace, said: "This is the most important radioactive discharge concern there ever has been."

## Mother sues MoD

A woman sacked by the Army for becoming pregnant was told she could return if the baby was stillborn, an industrial tribunal in Leeds was told yesterday. Ruth Ann Kerry, 39, of Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, who was discharged in 1985 after serving 12 of her 22-year contract and achieving the rank of sergeant, is claiming sex discrimination against the Defence Ministry and compensation of £170,000 for loss of earnings and pension, and injury to feelings. The Ministry has admitted liability but is contesting the £170,000 compensation claim. The hearing was adjourned until April 26.

## Footballer complains

The gay footballer Justin Fashanu complained to the Press Complaints Commission yesterday at a newspaper report claiming he had slept with two government ministers. Within 24 hours of the report in *The People* Mr Fashanu, who was alleged to have tried to secure £300,000 for the story, was suspended by the Scottish Premier League club Hearts. Mr Fashanu, 31, said: "I am being used to try to bring down a Government which has preached about moral values. I am fed-up with it." He said of his suspension: "It is apparently because I missed a couple of training sessions."

## Attacker sues police

Russell Bishop, left, who is serving life for the attempted murder of a child, yesterday sued Sussex police over his prosecution for the killing of two other girls. At Lewes Crown Court in December 1990, Bishop, 27, was convicted of kidnapping the seven-year-old girl and indecently assaulting her. Three years earlier, he had been acquitted of killing Nicola Fellows and Karen Hadaway, both aged nine.

## Legal bill shocks clients

Many solicitors still fail to tell clients about the likely cost of legal advice, in breach of Law Society guidelines, according to the National Consumer Council. A survey published today found that only 60 per cent of clients not on legal aid were told what the likely bill would be, although 80 per cent of solicitors says they explain costs to clients.

## Paraglider remanded

A 30-year-old American who landed half-naked on the roof of Buckingham Palace by paraglider was remanded in custody for a week by Bow Street magistrates yesterday. James Miller, whose middle name was given as "Fannan", faces one charge of using threatening, abusive and insulting behaviour and five charges under air navigation orders.

## Yacht skipper cleared

The skipper of a yacht carrying cannabis resin worth at least £23 million was cleared of attempted drug smuggling yesterday. Peter Keads, 35, from Belgium, said at the High Court in Aberdeen that he knew nothing of the 4.6 tonnes of the drug found in a secret compartment after the yacht, *Ambrosia*, was washed ashore near Peterhead.

## Lifestyle tips challenged

Reducing blood pressure and cholesterol levels does little to increase lifespan, John S Yudkin, professor of Medicine at University College London, said yesterday. He told a seminar on prolonging life by changes in lifestyle that a man of 45 with high blood pressure would extend his life, on average, by less than a year with drugs. Lowering a high cholesterol level would, at best, increase life by a few days or weeks. This was because the problems were not completely reversible. The only substantial gains came from giving up smoking, which could add 3.8 years to life.

## Patients at risk from new surgery

Continued from page 1

which involve operating through a tiny hole in the patient's body, are set to revolutionise surgery in Britain but are being taken up so fast that they are leading to disasters. The report says that most gall bladder operations are performed using keyhole techniques, three years after they were first introduced. "By surgeons who have had very little or no previous experience".

It says there will be a learning curve for surgeons and it is known that "occasional, avoidable incidents are occurring which have led to morbidity and mortality".

By the end of the decade keyhole surgery is expected to be used in 70 per cent of operations. It is being demanded by patients because it means less pain, a shorter hospital stay and faster recovery in expert hands.

Professor Cuschieri, head of surgery at Ninewells hospital, Dundee, said in September that he had told the Government disaster would ensue unless something was done. "It involves different techniques. You are operating from a distance; this can result in disaster, and disasters have happened."

Body & Mind, page 17

## Tories draw up blacklist of agitators

By ANDREW PIERCE

A BLACKLIST is being drawn up by Conservative Central Office to try to stamp out right-wing infiltration and to prevent expelled members returning to the party.

Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, ordered the move shortly before the embarrassing argument about alleged extremists taking over a Tory constituency branch in Essex that has demanded John Major's resignation.

Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, yesterday held talks with Sir Norman about the party's response to the rebel Midsley branch. It is said to have been hijacked by a group called the Revolutionary Conservative Caucus.

There are two disciplinary options: expel the members or disband the branch. But under present party rules expelled members can apply to rejoin other Tory associations. Sir Norman hopes, however, that the blacklist will rid the party of troublemakers. Details have been sent to all associations. One official said: "The last thing we want is to give Labour a loony right version of their loony left."

Demise of tearaways, page 16

## Councillor in homes scandal killed himself

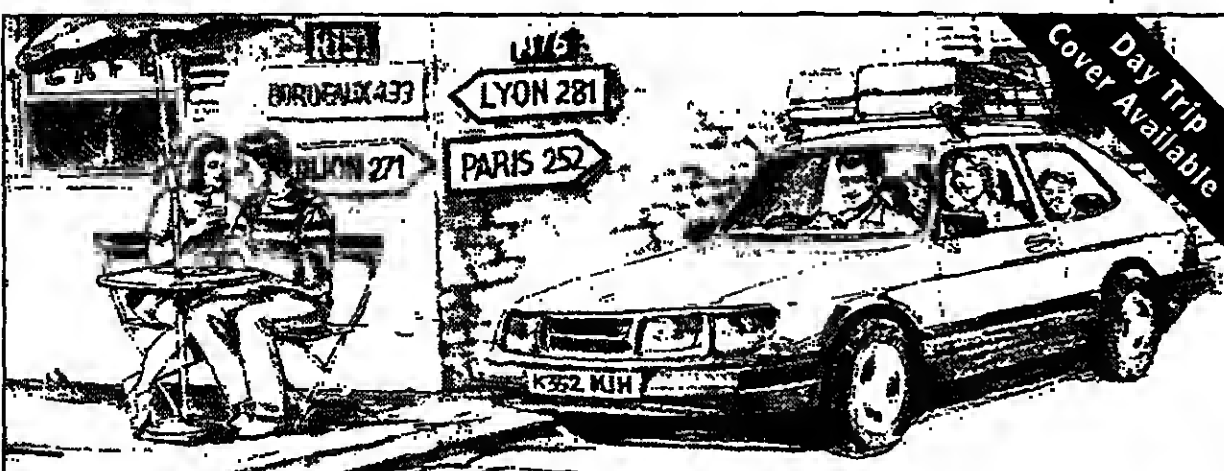
By IAN MURRAY

A FORMER chairman of Westminster Council's housing committee killed himself after writing a suicide note saying he lacked the resources to fight a "false and perverse" District Auditor's report accusing him of gerrymandering and wilful misconduct.

Dr Michael Dutt, 42, left the note under a Bible before shooting himself with a shotgun. St Albans Coroner's Court was told yesterday. The note, in a brown envelope addressed to "police and others" was not read out by Edward Thomas, the coroner. Nor were the two open letters

to John Magill, the District Auditor, faxed by Dr Dutt from his St Albans flat shortly before he killed himself. They included a detailed rebuttal of "falsehoods and twisted interpretations" which Dr Dutt said were included in the report.

A pathologist said that Dr Dutt could have been dead for up to ten days before he was found on January 26. The coroner, who recorded a verdict of suicide, said he was satisfied that Dr Dutt died from an injury he inflicted on himself knowing that would be fatal.



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## Wife's kidnappers flee after security driver rams car

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE wife of a Post Office security van driver was kidnapped and held bound and gagged by gunmen who were only foiled when her husband rammed their car, not realising she was in the boot.

The two men had earlier tried to force the driver to hand over thousands of pounds after showing him photographs of his wife trussed up with a shotgun to her head. They told him to follow their car to where the money could be handed over, but after a short distance he rammed the rear of the BMW and they raced off.

Yesterday detectives praised the courage of the driver, whose name is not being released, for having a go at the thieves despite knowing

that his wife was being held hostage. Det Supt Gary Haigh said: "The driver acted very bravely and coolly. When he was told his wife was in the boot he was numb with shock. He realised he could have so easily killed her."

She had earlier been kidnapped from their home in the Oakes district of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, soon after her husband left for work to deliver cash to post offices in the local area. The driver, 50, was stopped soon after he began his drops at a post office in Primrose Hill by two black men who showed him three Polaroid photographs of his wife.

It was five hours after her abduction that a police helicopter spotted the gunmen's

BMW abandoned at the roadside outside Huddersfield and found the woman in the boot. Mr Haigh said: "They heard a banging coming from the boot which was badly crushed and when they opened it they were amazed to find the woman lying bound and gagged. She was bruised but otherwise unhurt, but was very shocked and distressed."

The drama began shortly after 6am. The driver had left home to report for duty at Huddersfield's main post office. He and his co-driver had picked up a substantial amount of cash.

His wife, also aged 50, was still in bed when two men wearing balaclava helmets and one armed with a sawn-off shotgun burst into the bedroom. They forced her to write a note addressed to her husband and then bound and gagged her before taking the photographs.

She was then thrust into the boot of their BMW, which had been stolen several days earlier from a village 15 miles away, before driving to the Primrose Hill Post Office where her husband was due to make a delivery. They waited until the driver arrived shortly after 9am. As he left his vehicle, one of the gang handed the co-driver a letter and told him to pass it to the driver.

Mr Haigh said the driver recognised his wife's handwriting and saw his wife in the photographs. With them was a note in block capitals written by one of the gang which said: "Do as you are told and your wife will not be harmed."

One of the gang then told the Royal Mail crew to follow them. But after only 300 yards, the BMW pulled close to a wall at a road junction. Mr Haigh said: "The driver decided to try to trap the gang by ramming their car in the rear and pushing it up against the wall. But the driver of the BMW managed to free his vehicle and drove away at tremendous speed. It was seen by people being driven very recklessly for more than a mile and it nearly knocked down two children on a pedestrian crossing. Witnesses say the two occupants of the BMW were laughing."

"This was obviously a well-planned raid. They had checked the movements of the Royal Mail driver and knew that the van would be carrying a substantial amount of cash. It was only thanks to the bravery and coolness of the driver that a major crime has been avoided."

The Royal Mail has offered a £15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the gang.



Peter Malkin returns to jail after the access hearing in the High Court yesterday

## Malkin allowed jail visits from son

BY EMMA WILKINS

PETER Malkin, the businessman jailed for 18 months after kidnapping his 12-year-old son Oliver, yesterday won the right to receive prison visits from the boy. Malkin, who snatched Oliver in France last November and took him to Egypt for two months, has reached a provisional agreement with his former wife, Eliza Pridmore, over contact.

The terms of the agreement were approved at the High Court yesterday by Mr Justice Ewbank. He said Malkin's request for access would be reviewed in July.

Malkin was imprisoned in January for contempt of court after kidnapping his son in breach of a court order not to remove him from the care of Mrs Pridmore, who lives in Brittany with her second husband, Andrew.

Malkin, 54, who owns a country club near Canterbury, was taken to the High Court from Pentonville prison yesterday on his way to Canterbury prison, where he will serve the remainder of his sentence. Oliver, who attends school in Brittany, could visit his father during the Easter holidays.

After the hearing Malkin's solicitor, Sandra Davis, said he planned to appeal against the sentence, but a date had yet to be set. Malkin has written to his son several times. She said a French court passed a one-year sentence against Mr Malkin in absentia last week. It and a fine, costs and compensation totalling £20,000, related to a previous kidnapping of his son in 1991.

Mrs Pridmore's solicitor, Jill Noury, said: "Agreement has been reached and Oliver's mother is happy with it. Oliver will be brought over from France to see his father in prison."

## Surgeon challenges murder conviction

BY EMMA WILKINS

A SURGEON who was jailed for life 12 years ago for murdering his schizophrenic wife began an appeal yesterday based on new medical evidence which, he claims, will cast doubt on the cause of her death.

Paul Vickers, 58, was imprisoned when Teesside Crown Court accepted evidence that he had poisoned his partially disabled wife, Margaret, with an anti-cancer drug called CCNU. Vickers was said to have seen his wife as an impediment to his political aspirations.

Michael Mansfield QC, for Vickers, asked the Court of Appeal to consider evidence indicating that Mrs Vickers died from a condition caused by complications due to her mental illness.

Vickers, who met his wife at Cambridge University, was arrested when Pamela Collinson, a former mistress, told police in 1980 that she suspected him of murder. Miss Collinson was tried with Vickers. She was acquitted and given a suspended sentence for illegally obtaining the anti-cancer drug.

Medical evidence showed Mrs Vickers had died from a fatal blood disease linked with the destruction of bone marrow. CCNU, which destroys cancer cells but also attacks the bone marrow, function was said to be responsible.

Vickers admitted giving his wife CCNU but said it was to treat a brain tumour. He said Miss Collinson had blackmailed him.

Mr Mansfield said yesterday that medical experts would show Mrs Vickers died after she inhaled food particles, which led to an inflammatory reaction, causing adult respiratory distress syndrome.

Failure to challenge evidence relating to CCNU was an error, Mr Mansfield said. The case continues.

## MP found dead held high hopes of ministerial post

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN Milligan, who was found dead in his flat yesterday afternoon, led the 1992 intake of Tory MPs in reaching the first rung towards ministerial office.

Within seven months of his arrival at Westminster, he was appointed parliamentary private secretary to Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister, after showing a grasp of foreign affairs, particularly European issues.

He was one of very few Tory MPs to increase the party's majority when he was elected as MP for Eastleigh in Hampshire with a majority of 17,702.

Mr Milligan, 45, had been a highly respected journalist, most recently as a European correspondent for BBC Television. Previously, he had worked for *The Sunday Times* as Washington correspondent and as foreign editor, after a long career with *The Economist*, where he had been industrial editor, chief European Community correspondent, foreign reports editor and home editor. He also presented BBC Radio 4's *The World Tonight* programme for three years from 1980.

An unassuming character, he was however rare among the newcomers in steadfastly defending the Maastricht treaty during the many hours of Commons debate. His prominent sup-

port of the Government brought praise from Tory whips. While the new intake was dominated by right-wingers, Mr Milligan was on the centre-left of the party. He spoke recently of his hopes that a ministerial reshuffle in the summer might bring him a junior government post.

His deep interest in overseas affairs was reflected, before he was elected, by his membership of several international organisations. He was a member of the advisory body to the Royal Institute of International Affairs and secretary of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council.

Educated at Bradford College and Magdalen College, Oxford, Mr Milligan had been president of the Oxford Union and of the Oxford Conservative Association.

His journalistic experience had given him a close interest in the Government's plans to regulate the press, and he was a frequent defender of the right of newspapers to exercise voluntary restraint rather than face legal sanctions.

He had a rather self-deprecating style and spoke of his embarrassment when BBC listeners wrote to complain of his mistaken reference to Sir David Steel as an Englishman.

Mystery death, page 1

## Concern rises over cancer lab's safety lapses

BY EDWARD GORMAN

STAFF at the cancer laboratory at Birmingham University, which has been closed down because of safety fears, were at much greater risk than the university has admitted.

Specialist inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive ordered the laboratory, which has been closed down because of safety fears, were at much greater risk than the university has admitted.

The HSE inspectors decided that the cancer research at Birmingham should have been conducted at Level 3. They found staff had been working for up to two years on a basis which they believed was well below Level 2. The

laboratory should have been operating as a "high containment room": it should have been a restricted access area to named personnel; and the area where sensitive work was being conducted should have been sealed off.

The laboratory was, in fact, left as a large open-plan unit. What particularly worried the inspectors was the ease with which people not involved in the research were able to move near it. The lab was open to cleaning staff, to women washing up laboratory equipment with no idea of the danger of the work, and to people in nearby offices.

At Level 3 the laboratory would have had a sophisticated

air-flow monitoring system which would have prevented potentially infected particles from escaping. It did not have such a system, which raised the possibility of infection being spread beyond the confines of the laboratory.

The inspectors also discovered one serious case of equipment failure. A microbiological research cabinet being used by scientists to incubate cancer-causing viruses and human cells was found to have failed its last safety test and there was no evidence that it had been repaired to the required standard.

The inspectors concluded that senior staff at Birmingham had failed in their

duty properly to assess what problems could occur or how the cancer-causing viruses could accidentally escape. They were thus unable to show, as legally required, that there was no danger of cross-infection.

When this catalogue of the safety failures was put to Professor David Westbury, vice-principal of the university, he said: "All of the things which are in the formal list [of failings] are matters which do produce genuine concern. The work will be moved and placed in an appropriate containment level." He added that he considered the risk to staff to be no more than "theoretical" in nature.

## Spitfire roof display shot down by court

A BUSINESSMAN faces a large legal bill after losing an Appeal Court battle yesterday to keep a lifesize model Spitfire on the roof of his home.

John Gladden, 44, of Norbury, south London, was ordered to pay Croydon Borough Council's costs after Lord Justice Dillon told him that baiting planning authorities might give "exquisite pleasure", but was unlawful if it involved breaches of regulations.

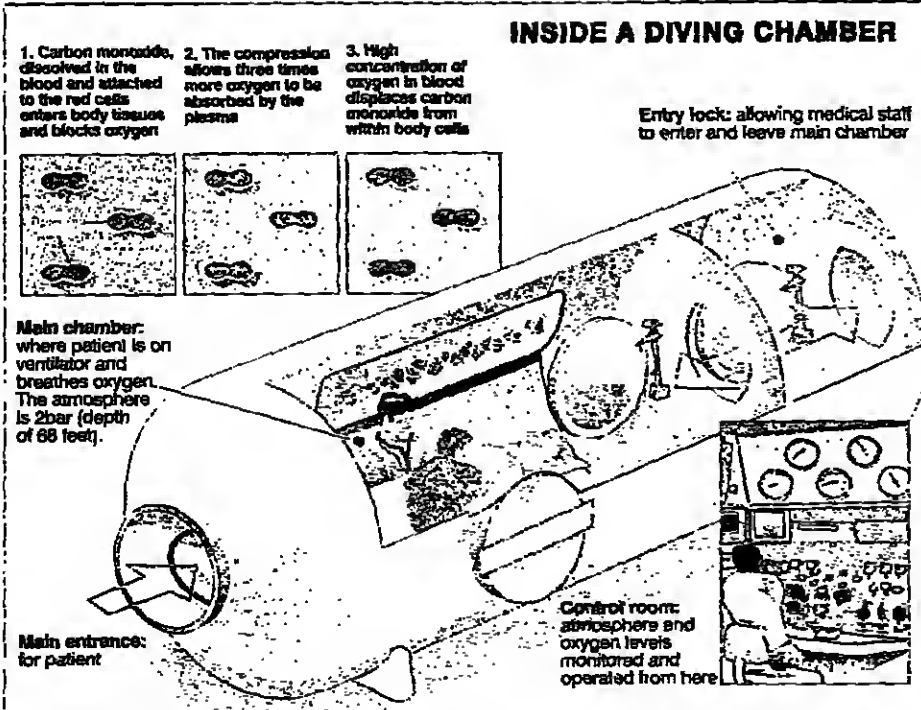
Mr Gladden placed the wooden and glassfibre replica on the roof in protest after the council refused him planning permission to keep a 14ft glassfibre Martin replica on a ground-floor extension roof.

He suffered a further setback yesterday when he was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Earlier the court was told that the council had last year obtained an injunction from Croydon County Court banning Mr Gladden from keeping the aircraft on his property. Mr Gladden took the council to the Appeal Court, arguing that the injunction, which also barred him from making any further additions to his home in breach of regulations, was too vague.

Lord Justice Dillon said the planning law was not vague and that Mr Gladden should have no difficulty deciding what needed permission.

Speaking after the case, Mr Gladden said he would keep the Spitfire on a trailer outside his home, alongside a 20ft inflatable model of Winston Churchill, a dinosaur and a torpedo, all the subject of previous court orders.



Decompression chambers are also used to help wounds that fail to heal

## Gassed boy opens his eyes as chamber breathes life into him

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE boy whose brother died from carbon monoxide poisoning opened his eyes yesterday after being treated for a third day in a divers' decompression chamber.

Doctors said Shaun Harris, 3, was improving after spending another two hours yesterday in the unit, where pure oxygen was forced into his lungs under pressure to flush out the carbon monoxide in his system.

His parents, Adrian, 25, and Kim, 27, watched through the porthole of the chamber and were later at his bedside in

Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. "It was a great moment for us," Mr Harris said.

The family, who were poisoned by fumes from a gas boiler at their home in Cymbran, Gwent, on Friday night, were taken to the Diving Diseases Research Centre in Plymouth. David Harris, aged 22 months, died a few minutes after his first session in the chamber.

Roland Gough-Allen, manager of the centre, said: "Shaun has had three sessions in the chamber at the highest pressure because he was so bad. We are operating at the limits of safety because oxygen becomes poisonous and causes fits if the pressure

rises too high." Carbon monoxide is taken up by red blood cells more readily than oxygen, in effect starving the body and the brain of oxygen. The longer the carbon monoxide remains in the blood the higher the risk of permanent brain damage.

Pure oxygen given under pressure is absorbed by the blood plasma, flushing out the carbon monoxide more quickly than would occur outside the chamber.

Giving oxygen under pressure is a recognised treatment for a range of conditions, including wounds or injuries that fail to heal because they have an inadequate blood supply.

## Art teacher faces jail after fling with girl, 13

A 50-YEAR-OLD art teacher was told yesterday that he faced prison after admitting an eight-month affair with a 13-year-old pupil.

Clive Giffellon made love to the girl in his car and at his home, after becoming first attracted to her on a school trip to Germany, where he and his wife slept in a room across the corridor from the pupil and her friend.

He was arrested in March last year after playground rumours of the affair reached other teachers.

At Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, Giffellon pleaded guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl aged under 16. Judge Sroyan told Giffellon he faced a jail sentence but adjourned his decision until today to consider social reports.

Giffellon, from Tow Law, Co Durham, first met the girl when she was 11 as a new pupil at the comprehensive school where he taught.

John Evans, for the prosecution, said that when she was 13 Giffellon became fascinated by her good looks and she was flattered by his unexpected attention. Two months later the affair began in earnest during the trip to Germany.

William Lowe, for the defence, said that Giffellon had given 27 years of "tireless service" to children at his school. He had resigned immediately after his arrest.

The parents of the girl said later that Giffellon had ruined her life. "He held a position of trust and he abused it in the worst way possible. When you send your child to school you expect them to be safe."

## ADVERTISEMENT

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### REPORT FROM TUZLA

WHOEVER IS guilty of creating the hell that is Bosnia today, Adisa Ekrem and thousands of children like her are the innocent victims.

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## Care workers blamed over murder of three-year-old

BY RICHARD DUCE

FUNDAMENTAL errors of judgment by social workers led to the murder of three-year-old Leanne White by her stepfather, a report concluded yesterday.

In spite of warnings from neighbours and relatives of Leanne about the danger she faced from Colin Sleate, the child was not placed on an "at risk" register by Nottinghamshire social services and the police were not informed.

A report into Leanne's death by the local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) said much of social service involvement with the child was "unplanned, unco-ordinated, unfocused and outside the terms of procedure of the ACPC."

Sleate, 29, of Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, was last year jailed for life for beating Leanne to death. The girl's mother, Tina White, is serving ten years for manslaughter.

David White, director of Nottinghamshire social services, yesterday accepted criticism of his department but would not say whether he intended to resign.

John Bowis, a junior health minister, will study the report before deciding whether there should be a public enquiry, as demanded by the trial judge, or whether the three unnamed social workers in the case should be disciplined.

Leanne's grandmother Mary White, who is suing social services, said the report was "one massive cover-up. It is just one lot of them sticking up for the other."

When Sleate was convicted, David White said he did not

think social services had played a significant role in Leanne's death. But in a statement yesterday he conceded: "The department failed Leanne in that formal procedures which might have protected her were not followed."

After Leanne's death, 100 injuries were found on her body but the report disclosed that neither social nor health workers had undressed the child to examine her during visits to her home.

It concludes: "There were failings of professional practice, procedural compliance, management oversight and training."

There had been a "series of errors of judgment... some minor, some fundamental". The report made seven recommendations including stricter monitoring of children and families known to social services and improved staff training. The three social workers involved in Leanne's case still work for the council.

Last night, Dennis Pettit, leader of the Labour-run county council, said: "I feel anger and disgust, and it brings tears to your eyes to read the report." He could not comment on calls for Mr White's resignation and denied any suggestion of a whitewash by the council. "It would be wrong of me to pre-empt any disciplinary hearing," he said.

Leanne's grandmother said: "If the individuals who ignored our complaints about Leanne had a conscience, they would admit what they did was wrong." She said Mr White should resign.



Angus Diggle, the solicitor jailed for three years for attempted rape, was granted leave to appeal against his conviction yesterday. Diggle, 37, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, failed to secure bail in a private hearing at the Court of Appeal.

## Doctor accused of raping girl, 17

BY RONALD FAUK

A DOCTOR drugged a girl aged 17 with chloroform before photographing her naked and then raping her, Liverpool crown court was told yesterday.

Dr Sudhamay Chatterjee, 59, of Horwich, Greater Manchester denies abducting and raping the girl. A co-defendant, Mohammed Saeed, of Bolton, denies aiding and abetting him.

Clement Goldstone QC, for the prosecution, told the court that the girl's abduction had been carefully planned by Dr Chatterjee. "Over the previous months he won the confidence of her family, a confidence he, as a man old enough to be their daughter's grandfather, cruelly and wickedly betrayed," he said.

Dr Chatterjee met the girl when she started working in a part-time capacity at a health centre in Bolton. He had already taken her out for a birthday meal with her three sisters and arranged for Mr Saeed to video the evening.

The court was told that last March 16 he told the girl, a secretarial student, that she was needed at the centre. He picked her up from her par-

ents' house, then put a handkerchief covered in chloroform over her face to knock her out. He then took her to a house in Bolton, where he raped her while his friend allegedly looked on.

Mr Goldstone said: "As she was going under, she felt a punch to her face. She then recalls that when she came round she was lying naked on a bed and was being watched by the two defendants."

The girl recalled coming round, Mr Goldstone said. Dr Chatterjee "moved her into a compromising position while photographs were taken of her. She then saw Chatterjee unzip his trousers and get on to the bed. She was coming in and out of consciousness and was aware that Chatterjee was having intercourse with her."

The court was told that some months earlier the doctor had prescribed contraceptive pills to the girl. After the alleged rape he had calmly taken her home.

The girl wept as she told the jury: "I was crying and the doctor walked up and put a handkerchief over my nose and mouth and said, 'Go to sleep'." The trial continues.

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## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Kremlin debut

THE Professional Chess Association's inaugural speed chess grand prix will take place in the Kremlin in Moscow from April 18-24.

One of the favourites to qualify for the PCA World Championship is the young Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik, here seen in top attacking form in the competition in Groningen. Kramnik's sacrificial irruption with 22 Re7+ constitutes a spectacular and beautiful way to win.

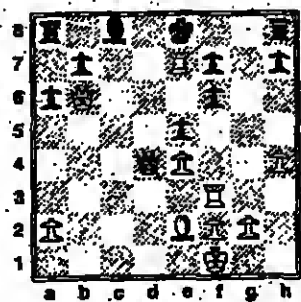
White: Vladimir Kramnik  
Black: Grigory Kaidanov  
PCA Qualifier, Groningen 1993

### Queen's Gambit accepted

1 Nf3 c5  
2 d4 Nf6  
3 c4 e6  
4 Nc3 dxc4  
5 e4 Bb4  
6 Bg5 c5  
7 Bxc4 cxd4  
8 Nxc4 Qc3  
9 bxc3 Nxd7  
10 Bxd6 Qxc3+  
11 Kf1 g6

13 h4  
14 Rh3 Qd5  
15 Bb2 Nc3  
16 Nf5 Qd3  
17 Qxd3 e5  
18 Rf3 Qd6  
19 Rf1 Qe7  
20 Qb6 Qd8  
21 Rf7 Qd4  
22 Re7+

### Diagram after White's 22nd move



22 ... Kxe7  
23 Qd6+ Kd7  
24 Rxd3 Qxd3  
25 Bxd3 Rf6  
26 Bc4 Rf7  
27 Bb7 Kd6  
28 Qb6+ Kd7  
29 Bb5 Kd6  
30 Bb4+ Kd7  
31 Qd8 Black resigns

Winning Move, page 44

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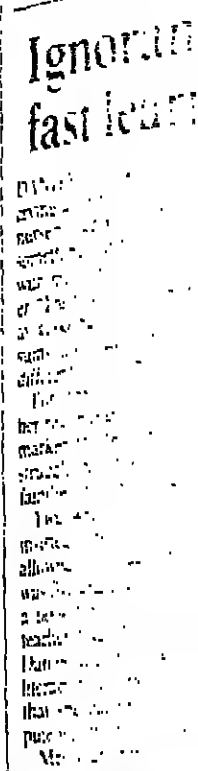
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## Brightest must be given more help, teachers are told

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY schools were urged yesterday to identify gifted children as young as five in a government drive to challenge outstanding pupils.

Eric Forth, a junior education minister, said that providing effective schooling for very able pupils was not elitist but helped to raise expectations and lift standards generally.

Under guidance published yesterday, schools are expected to tell parents how they cater for gifted children and appoint a teacher to co-ordinate their strategy.

The move follows concern that schools neglect their most able pupils, with some becoming frustrated and dropping behind because they are not pushed properly by teachers. Experts estimate that one in 20 children is gifted.

Government inspectors re-

ported two years ago that very able pupils in state schools were often insufficiently challenged. They highlighted "worrying deficiencies" in the teaching of English, mathematics and science.

Mr Forth said: "Far from being at the expense of other children's education, providing appropriate challenges for the gifted is likely to raise expectations and the standards of education for a much wider group of pupils."

He said: "I trust the 'elitist' label which, in the past, has often been attached to making special arrangements for very able pupils, will continue to disappear in our schools."

Mr Forth said schools should establish a clear and coherent policy explaining how they intended to identify exceptional ability. Teachers

should then ensure that all children were challenged in their work.

"These objectives should form an integral part of schools' wider plans for development and be reported in the school prospectus. Head teachers must ensure that one teacher has the responsibility for co-ordinating provision for the most able children. This is a critical step if schools are to disseminate and build upon good practice."

Mr Forth said the Government had already laid strong foundations for action, with schools allowed to advance pupils into higher year groups and enter classes early for GCSE examinations.

Ministers have been much impressed by a scheme in Solihull that registers children considered to be gifted. About 7 per cent of the borough's pupils are listed as gifted, with 2 per cent judged exceptionally talented. Under the scheme, teachers can use a checklist to help "talent-spot" pupils.

The checklist includes characteristics such as: exhibiting unusually extroverted or introverted behaviour within a group; independent worker; shows initiative; speed and agility of thought and preference for verbal rather than written expression; versatile; shows many interests; unusually high motivation and self-expression; persistent; resourceful; self-directed; learns easily; inquisitive; sceptical; excellent sense of humour; outstanding vocabulary; verbally fluent; and informed in unusual areas often beyond their years.

Yesterday's report, *Exceptionally Able Children*, was based on two conferences held in October organised jointly by the Education Department and the Office for Standards in Education. Officials regard the conferences as the first step in establishing regional support networks for teachers of very able children and extending in-service training.



The bullet-proof vest worn by Russ Atherton, a paramedic in Manchester, will withstand 9mm bullets and shotgun blasts. The ambulance men and women of the city's Central district have been issued with vests and helmets in a three-month trial to protect them from the rising tide of violence, most of it drug related, in the notorious Moss Side and Cheetham Hill areas. Paramedics from other

districts of Greater Manchester believe they, too, should be given protection. John Roberts, an ambulance man at the Charles Street station in Salford, also considered a danger area, said: "One of the men working in the control room had a gun pulled on him recently. We have been shot at — an ambulance was shot at in Old Trafford outside a nightclub. The bottom line is that a dead ambulance man is no use to anyone." Mr Roberts believes all ambulance crews should be given the choice of wearing a jacket. Erica Marshall, a paramedic at Central, has been wearing one of the two trial jackets. She said: "It gives me a certain amount of reassurance. But I'm also reassured that my employer is concerned about my safety. If you know you are responding to a shooting it makes you feel more comfortable."

## Green coffin bids farewell to pollution

By MICHAEL HORNSEY  
COUNTRYSIDE  
CORRESPONDENT

A COFFIN that will reduce air pollution and relieve overcrowding in the nation's cemeteries is being marketed by a British company as the ultimate accessory for those who want to leave as little a mark on the world as possible.

Among the advantages claimed for the environment-friendly "peace box", made mainly of recycled paper and cardboard with a simulated

woodgrain finish, are that it emits fewer pollutants than conventional coffins when burnt and decomposes faster.

Nigel Keen, from Winsley, Wiltshire, recently set up a company called PBUK to import the coffins from their Swiss manufacturer. "The peace box has been tested by German scientists," he said. "They have shown that it emits only a quarter of the ash dust and carbon dioxide and other gases that are released when traditional coffins are burnt." At a price of between

£200 and £250 the peace box costs about the same as the cheapest traditional coffins. It also comes in knock-down form, requiring little storage space, and can be assembled in a few minutes without tools.

Undertakers doubled yesterday whether the green coffin would catch on. Derek Gunningham, of the National Association of Funeral Directors, said: "Most families would jib at the idea of packing their grandmother off in a cardboard box, whatever the environmental benefits. It

brings great comfort to the loved ones to be able to see their relative laid out in a proper receptacle."

Harry Newman, deputy superintendent of the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium, was more enthusiastic. "Under the Environmental Protection Act, crematoria will have to meet tough new pollution standards by April 1998. I would be surprised if there is a single crematorium in the country that could meet them now. Anything that would reduce pollution is of interest."

## Ignorant staff leave fast learner in limbo

DANIEL, 3, came home crying after his third day at nursery school. "There is something terribly wrong with me," he told his mother. "The other boys and girls at school can't spell, can't do sums and can't read. I'm different from everybody."

For Anne Gardiner (not her real name), the episode marked the beginning of a struggle common to many families of gifted children.

Two weeks later, Daniel insisted he was "not allowed" to read until he was five and did not pick up a book for 18 months. His teacher told Mrs Gardiner Daniel did not have the literacy and numeracy skills that she claimed. This dispute was the first of many. Mrs Gardiner has since

seen a succession of educational psychologists and schools, both state and private. The Gifted Children's Information Centre in Solihull, West Midlands, assessed Daniel as having an IQ of more than 150.

Daniel, meanwhile, was labelled a slow learner. At the age of four, in a state of frustration, he suffered clinical depression.

Mrs Gardiner was sceptical yesterday of the value of the Government's advice to teachers about gifted children: "It is an unfair burden to put on classroom teachers given that they have never been trained to deal with the needs of these children," she said. "These children are already in the education system and need help now."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Boy shot in game with gun

A boy is critically ill after being shot in the face while he and a friend played with an airgun. The pellet lodged in the brain of Danny Sondergaard, 14, after his friend, also 14, pulled the trigger without realising the gun was loaded.

Danny, of Rainham, Kent, is in a coma in a neurological unit. Mrs Mike Humphrey, of Gillingham police, said: "We are satisfied this was a terrible accident. The boys had no idea the gun was loaded."

#### Pothole payout

Hampshire County Council has been ordered to pay £77,700 damages to Peter Houldin, 25, of Wirral, who has not worked since being flung from a motorcycle that hit a 2in deep pothole in a road at Otterbourne.

#### Prison charge

Mohammad James Saeed, 29, accused of murdering a fellow inmate at Long Lartin prison in an argument about rugby, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester.

#### Taxi murder

Christopher Dore, who beat a taxi driver to death with a crow bar at Christmas 1992 in an argument about his fare, was jailed for life. Dore, 33, of Nottingham, had denied murder at the city's Crown Court.

#### Surprise tackle

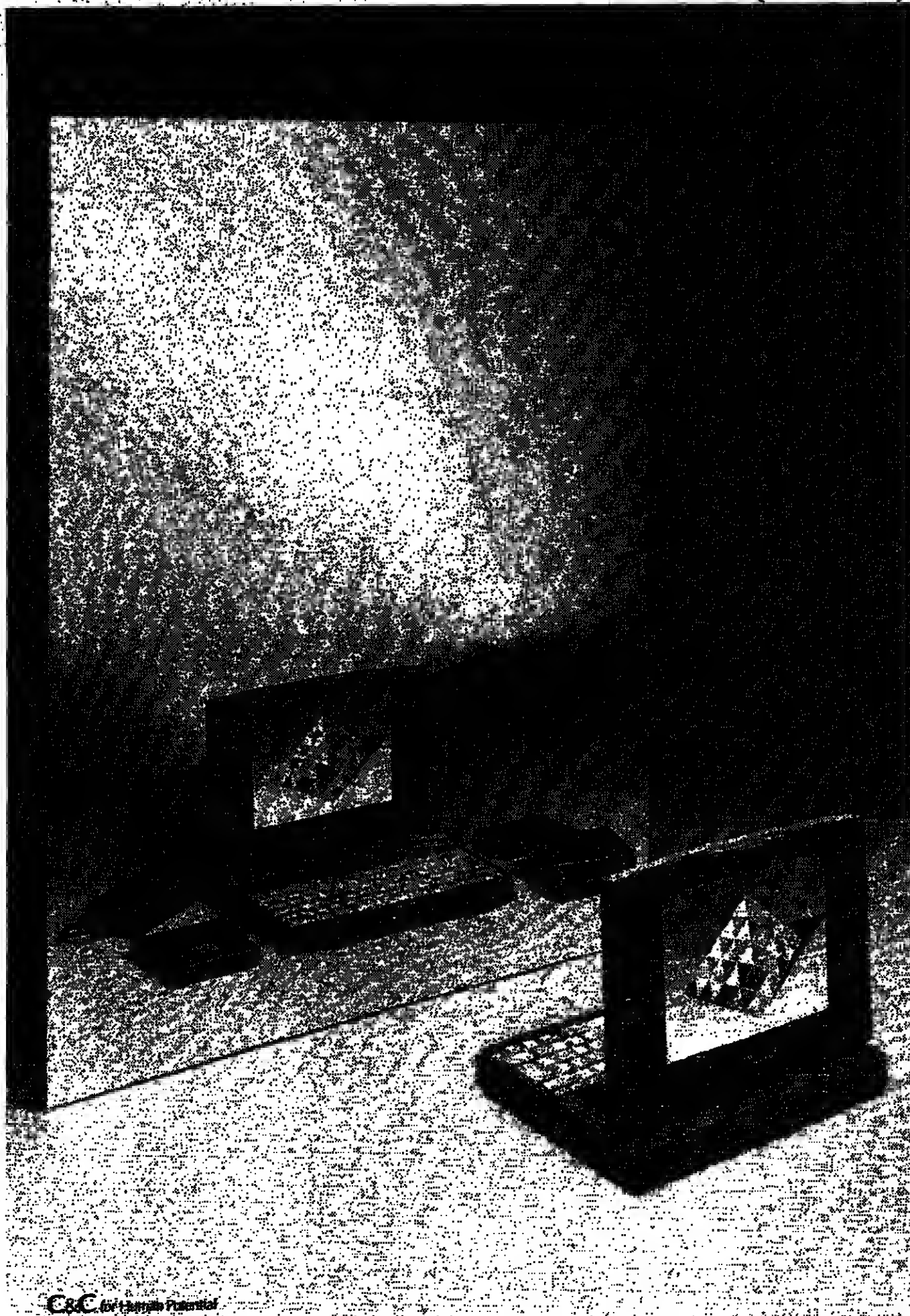
An amateur football team in Blackpool was reduced to ten men by police investigating a robbery, who took away for questioning a 20-year-old man still in his kit.

#### Showhome haul

A man and two women were arrested after police recovered two vanloads of furniture and fittings stolen from showhomes in Horsham, Sussex.

#### Cathedral theft

Four 18th-century communion flagons worth about £50,000 have been stolen from Wakefield Cathedral.



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WPC Sue Thomson, a riot control instructor who says of male colleagues: "Once they realise you can teach them something, they will listen"

## Policewomen stop at nothing in the ceaseless fight against crime

# Armed and ready — the mother in law

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SUE Thomson gives the lie to claims that there are some jobs a female police officer cannot do. Competent to use every gun in the police armoury from a revolver to a pump action shotgun, she is also a tactical adviser on riot operations.

The duties of WPC Thomson, married with a daughter aged three-and-a-half, can include mounting armed guard at the Prime Minister's country residence at Chequers and tackling fights between skinheads and black youths on the streets of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Working for Thames Valley police, WPC Thomson is among 100 women officers across Britain qualified to use a gun, although none has yet opened fire while on duty.

One woman sergeant has commanded Northampton's tactical firearms unit, and armed female officers patrol with Scotland Yard's diplomatic patrol group. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has recently agreed to issue weapons to all female officers.

WPC Thomson, 29, had never fired anything more dangerous than an air gun when she decided that she wanted to become a qualified shot. An outgoing woman, she said: "I am a bit of a go-getter. It seemed quite challenging and demanding."

Her husband, an interpreter, accepted her police duties but WPC Thomson had thought that male officers might prove difficult. "I have quite a strong personality. I won't say there have not been

the odd comments but nothing I can't handle," she said.

She is not only part of the armed teams but also trains officers in riot work. WPC Thomson admits that it takes considerable confidence to stand in front of 22 men and teach them how to quell disorder. She said: "At the warm-

up, you get sexist remarks. You just make light of it. Once you actually start instructing, there is no problem. Once they realise you can teach them something, they will listen."

Armed roles have involved providing cover for raids on the homes or hideouts of armed robbers. Other opera-

tions in which she has participated have included dealing with domestic disputes where a gun is involved and the police might be called to lift a siege.

In 1987, Thames Valley was the scene of the Hungerford massacre, when a gunman killed 16 including a police

constable. Does WPC Thomson think about the danger? "I would not say I have not thought about it just before a job but it has never worried me. We cover so many scenarios in training, it really does prepare you for anything."

Before she goes to work, WPC Thomson makes sure

her daughter is well looked-after. "Otherwise I would not be able to concentrate on what I am doing," she said. What does her daughter think? When taunted by another child because her mother was a policewoman, the little girl replied: "Yes, but she's a mummy first."

## Inner-city veteran leads from front

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FOURTEEN years ago, Anne Summers was covering inside a cafe being pelted with rocks as riots erupted in Bristol's inner city. Yesterday, she was back in the front line as the first woman officer to take charge of policing the St Paul's district.

From her office in Trinity Road police station, Supt Summers surveys a beat she first patrolled as a young constable. The force then had a separate women's division looking after juveniles, children and family matters. Serious crime was left to the men.

Little did the young woman, who joined the police to gain

leagues inside the building for two hours.

"We were under fire from bricks, bottles and stones. I was the only woman in the raid and my initial reaction was one of shock. I was frightened at the time."

After escaping from the building, she remained on duty. "I knew I was being hit by bricks and bottles, but it wasn't until I got home that I realised that I was covered in bruises," she said.

"You don't think about being frightened until you stop. It is the nature of the job. If you thought in terms of your personal safety, you would never get anywhere."

Her work is dominated by management, but she is determined to maintain a high profile in the district and recently took part in a drugs raid, standing alongside her colleagues sealing off a street.

Peter Eccles said: "It was great to come out of the house and see Ma'am standing in the front line, not behind it. I thought, 'that is leadership, she is prepared to be out there with us'."

That kind of compliment is, according to Supt Summers, an indication of how much attitudes in the service have changed. As a newly promoted inspector ten years ago, some of her male colleagues questioned whether she was capable of doing the job.

Another example of sexism occurred at a promotion interview. "I'd been 15 years in the force and I was asked if I intended to make the police my career," she said. "It was ignorance really. I have noticed a great change in attitudes towards me."

"I have more self-confidence and men's attitudes have changed. They see more women taking responsibility."

## Family women turn to part-time solution

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BAND of policewomen has paved the way for a work pattern that could revolutionise the status of female officers and give mothers the chance to return to work and reach the top ranks.

After trials with 220 officers in six forces, the Home Office has lifted regulations that banned officers from part-time duties. The Government benefits from more flexible policing and recoups the initial investment in training.

Sarah Foxall and Tracy Causar share a beat in the West Midlands. They are treated as one person when the duty rota is prepared at Sutton Coldfield station and each receives half pay. Part-time working offers women officers an opportunity to

keep in touch and later to resume a full-time career.

Jan Robinson, 41, an enthusiastic part-timer, patrols 15 villages and hamlets near Bicester in Oxfordshire. She works 32 hours a week in four eight-hour shifts.

She said: "I have a three day weekend but I don't think being part-time affects the policing. I try that bit harder because I am part-time."

WPC Robinson, who is married to a police inspector and has two children, said her biggest test on returning to the police after five years was the fitness programme rather than the attitude of other officers. "I thought other officers would think I had a cushy number, but there's been no opposition."

## Prime suspect for a gritty role model

BY A STAFF REPORTER

JACKIE Malton is the woman detective who advised Lynda La Plante on the creation of Det Chief Insp Jane Tennison, the gritty heroine of the successful *Prime Suspect* drama. Male officers may never forgive her; women officers praise her.

Although Det Chief Insp Malton insists she is not the model for Tennison, she concedes there are similarities. She will also admit the television detective's battles over sexism and discrimination and the characters she confronts have been painted from her own experiences.

Sitting in her office in west London where a poster from the series has pride of place, Miss Malton said: "It's drama

at the end of the day — and the Met and the rest of the world have to believe that — with a bit of reality thrown in."

At 42, Miss Malton is one of two female detective chief inspectors among the 307 women serving with 3,800 male officers in Scotland Yard's CID. There are also four female superintendents or chief superintendents, ten inspectors and 40 sergeants. Women have found it difficult to break into the male bastion of detective work. Miss Malton, like Tennison, is one of the survivors.

She arrived in London in 1979 after becoming a detective sergeant in Leicestershire. "I am no good in leafy suburbia," Miss Malton said. "I am fascinated by the seedy streets of the East End and King's Cross."

After two years, she joined the Flying

Squad, the most famous Yard unit and one steeped in decades of masculine tradition. The thrill was short-lived. "I found the Flying Squad tough, very tough. There was a lot of macho behaviour. I felt constantly isolated."

She went on dawn raids to confront armed robbery networks that dominated the underworld in the 1980s, and would find a police driver sitting safely out of danger pontificating on the injustice of equal opportunities.

The criminals showed a greater sense of equality. "I don't think the armed robbers were particularly sexist," she said. "They had total contempt for the lot of us. That made me feel a bit better."

Miss Malton, who has also served in the fraud squad, believes the Met has improved since her Flying Squad days.



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Monthly payment £245.00 in year 1 and £112.50 thereafter all net of income tax at the basic rate. APR 6.8% (variable). Total Amount Payable over 25 years: £34,500. 5. Fixed rate mortgage. Example: 8.50% for 10 years then 8.70% thereafter. Monthly payment £245.00 in year 1 and £112.50 thereafter all net of income tax at the basic rate. APR 6.8% (variable). Total Amount Payable over 25 years: £34,500. 6. Nationwide Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Financial Services Authority. 7. The Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Financial Services Authority. 8. The Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Financial Services Authority. 9. The Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association and is authorised by the Financial Services Authority. 10. 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Auckland's finest carry the can as an eccentric tries to remove the smell of monarchy

## Whatever next? asks Prince after air freshener attack

FROM ALAN HAMILTON  
IN WELLINGTON

THE great air freshener attack on the Prince of Wales was yesterday in danger of being committed to the stone tablets of immutable legend. It was, in truth, a tiny incident and nobody was hurt.

Media interest briefly reached fever pitch. Policemen were alert for copycat attacks after the potentially much more serious incident in Sydney two weeks ago. The only people more alert were reporters and cameramen.

The Times was accompanying the Prince on his Auckland harbour walkabout when the attacker struck. A hissing noise over the shoulder, a lemony smell and, within seconds, a furious rugby scrum. There was, in a split second, time to note a middle-aged man with frizzy white hair before he was wrestled to the ground by six police officers, one of them a tiny Julie Beeke, just out of training school. Helmets flew. The



WPC Beeke: tackled the would-be sprayer

police acted with remarkable swiftness and had the man on the floor before he got within 12ft of the Prince.

The green plastic cap of his Ozone Country Air aerosol rolled on the ground, and an enterprising journalist pocketed it as a souvenir, oblivious to the possible need for fingerprints.

New Zealand's efficient but friendly police force were quick to issue their side of the

story. The man had been behind a security barrier when he launched his attack, and was still behind the barrier when tackled, they said. This was patently untrue. The man was squirting his scent by The Times's right ear, and The Times was well within the cordon sanitaire.

The assailant was a harmless but well-known Auckland eccentric, Castislaw Bracanov, 58, a Croatian who has lived in New Zealand for 30 years, is well known to both police and hosts of radio talk-back programmes. Within the last week he called a local radio station and announced his intention to make trouble for the heir to the New Zealand throne.

In 1985, he was apprehended for throwing horse manure at the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Two years later, he was detained for yelling abuse at Queen Margrethe of Denmark. In 1988, he threw a fresh supply of horse droppings at King Juan Carlos of Spain. In 1990, he threw yet

more dung in the path of runners carrying the Queen's baton to the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

On the day before the Prince's arrival, the police visited Mr Bracanov at his home in Auckland to advise him against outrageous behaviour. They called again yesterday morning, but he was already on his way to the quayside. They had him in their sights, however. When he pressed the button to remove the nasty smell of monarchy, they were on top of him in a flash. No fly spray yet invented works so quickly.

The Prince, who had been enjoying meeting crews engaged in the Whitbread round-the-world race during their five-week Auckland stop-over, appeared largely unmoved. He turned to his staff and in his dry, self-deprecating way remarked: "Whatever next?"

Before we are done, we fear an egg.

Diary, page 18



Castislaw Bracanov, a seasoned protester, is taken away by Auckland police

## Boy wins £1.25m for injuries

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY of seven severely brain-damaged during a "traumatic" hospital birth was yesterday awarded compensation worth £1.25 million in the High Court in Birmingham.

The agreed award against Dudley Health Authority to James Tweedie, who is unable to use his arms or legs, is in the form of a structured settlement.

James suffered brain damage during a complicated breech birth at Wordsley Hospital, Stourbridge, in June 1986.

After the hearing, his father Richard Tweedie, 36, of Shatterford, Hereford and Worcester, said: "I was present at the birth and things just weren't organised that night. Staff were there but when the emergency arose they couldn't deal with it."

Henry Foster, the authority's chief executive, said the settlement had been calculated to cover all James's future needs.

## Tougher test to curb new drivers

BY TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NEW drivers convicted during their first two years may have their licence withdrawn, be made to display L plates and have to retake a tougher test under measures to be announced tomorrow.

Although the proposals will apply to all newly qualified motorists, they are intended to curb drivers aged 17 to 21. Such people represents only 10 per cent of drivers and do below average mileage, yet they are involved in 20 per cent of accidents.

Learner drivers will also face a written test to examine their knowledge and attitudes before going on the road with an examiner.

Ministers are also considering subjecting learner drivers to a video "game" to test their hazard perception skills. The "game" involves watching a ten-minute video of routine driving and pushing a button when they see a hazard.

Dr Frank McKenna, the psychologist in charge of the Transport Department-funded programme, said tests had shown that young drivers were much slower than experienced drivers at spotting hazards. "Although written tests may be cheaper, they do not really assess reaction time or awareness to everyday motor situations," he said.

As reported in The Times

last month, young drivers who agree to pay for additional tuition once they have passed their test could qualify for lower insurance premiums.

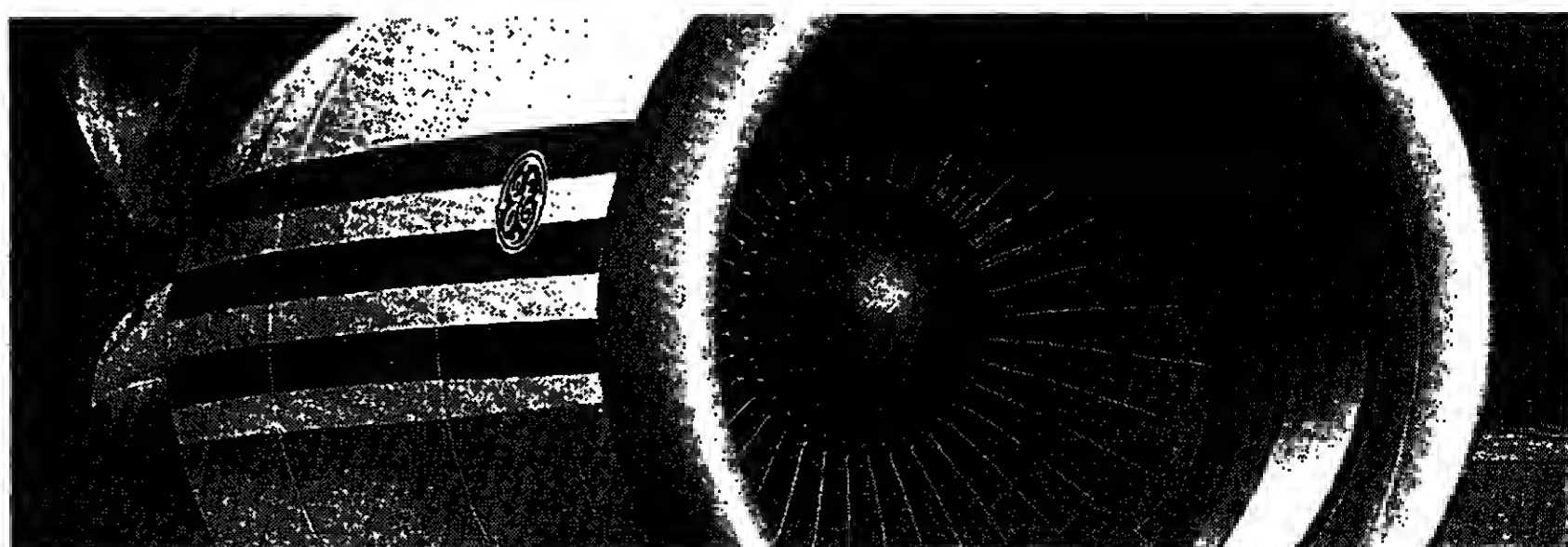
The £70, five-hour voluntary courses would involve motorway driving, driving in hazardous conditions and driving at night. Examiners would also assess the mental attitude of young drivers to determine if they displayed aggressive tendencies.

The AA said that unless the proposals were effective at curbing high-risk motorists and enforceable by the police, the lengthy consultation period would have been a waste of time.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, said: "Only a minority of younger drivers can be classified as unsafe and measures must focus on this group." The AA favoured new drivers being retested if they incurred penalty points through bad driving. "Knowing that just one offence could bring a driving ban or reversion to L plate status would be a powerful incentive to safer driving in the first crucial year."

Edmund King, of the RAC, said: "We are a bit concerned if a ban is automatic. We think magistrates should be given discretion. It should depend on the nature of the offence."

# TWO GIANTS.



These days the Welsh Dragon is a real high flyer since two international giants of the aero engineering industry chose Wales.

British Airways has its new engineering base at Cardiff Airport and recently General Electric (USA) has moved to nearby Nantgarw, where they service aircraft engines for famous names like CFMI, Rolls Royce and Pratt & Whitney.

With more than a little help from the Welsh Development Agency, both companies were not merely able to find the right site,

but also the right people from Wales' skilled and flexible workforce.

The WDA has also assisted in the development of a local supplier infrastructure to ensure vital components are always at hand.

To get your business off the ground, put the Welsh Advantage to your advantage. Call the team at Welsh Development International on 0222 666862, by fax on 0222 668279 or write to Welsh Development International, Welsh Development Agency, Pearl House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3XX.

# ONE DRAGON.



THE WELSH ADVANTAGE.

IF YOU WERE WATCHING  
WORLD IN ACTION  
ON TV LAST NIGHT  
HERE'S A REMINDER  
OF HOW IN THE  
SHEEP WERE PACKED

If, like our inspectors, you were appalled at the way live sheep were transported across Europe, crushed together and with no food and water for 28 hours, call us on the number below to find out how you can help.

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STOP THE NEEDLESS TRANSPORTATION  
OF ANIMALS. PHONE 0500 34 35 36.



## The road from Rio: Gummer executes a U-turn to speed Britain's environmental drive

## Out-of-town consumer boom ends

By Jonathan Prynn, Political Reporter

JOHN Gummer brought the era of the out-of-town shopping centre to a close yesterday when he told the Commons of an about-turn in government policy as part of its commitment to the Rio treaty.

The reversal comes from a Government that fostered the consumer boom of the 1980s when some of the largest shopping malls in Europe opened, leading to swaths of British countryside disappearing under concrete.

It will mean significant changes in the shopping habits of Britons grown used to driving many miles to the edges of towns and cities for their weekly purchases. From now on, the emphasis is back on partly abandoned town and city centres as the main forum for consumption.

The shift was flagged last week when the Environment Secretary refused planning consent for supermarkets outside Ludlow and Cambridge, two of England's most beautiful and historic settlements. There are to be no more Thurrock Lakesides and no more Gateshhead MetroCentres. The change has already provoked deep concern from property companies, many of which have the superstore development programme to thank for their survival during the recession.

The new policy helps in the implementation of two key commitments made by the Prime Minister at the Rio de Janeiro environmental summit two years ago. Less use of the car for shopping will help reduce harmful emissions, while communities will be strengthened by the revival of the town centre.

Or so the theory goes. The road from Rio shares much in common with the famous Damascus highway. It was miracle enough persuading the leaders of 178 countries to sign their names to the Rio Treaty on the environment in June 1992. Translating the good intentions expressed in the documents into political action by self-interested governments was always going to be an awesome challenge.

Few can be more aware of the dangers than John Major. Implementing the commitments on cutting emissions of greenhouse gases has already helped lose him a Chancellor and contributed to the unprecedented unpopularity of the



There will be no more developments like the MetroCentre at Gateshead, one of the largest malls in Europe

Government. However hard the Government protested that VAT on fuel was unavoidable because of Rio commitments, a £3 billion tax that hit pensioners hardest at a time of crisis in the nation's finances could never be a vote winner.

There is much more to come. Two weeks ago at the launch of *Taking Rio Forward*, four documents spelling out the Government's re-

sponse to the conference, the Prime Minister admitted that cultural changes such as paying for using roads were unlikely to have people "dancing in the streets".

However, in the Commons yesterday, Mr Gummer made clear the Government would not be deflected from the task it set itself in Rio. Two conventions, one on preserving biodiversity and one on control-

ling climatic change, form the core of the treaty. Britain has already ratified the climate change convention and has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2000. It was that pledge which led directly to Norman Lamont's announcement of VAT on fuel in March last year.

The bio-diversity convention has proved more prob-

lematic. America refused to sign up to it in Rio although it has subsequently relented. Britain has signed but has not yet ratified because of concerns that the financial provisions of the convention were not fully under the control of the developed world.

Those problems are close to being resolved and Britain is expected to ratify the convention by this summer.

## Giant that never got off the ground

By Dominic Kennedy

IT WAS during the optimistic Thatcher years that planners decided that Cambridge city centre was inadequate to meet the public's appetite for shopping. Largely a conservation area, it was too crowded with colleges and other architectural gems to enable the building of new shops.

Cambridgeshire County Council signalled its approval for out-of-town shopping as early as 1985, and by the end of the decade three proposals were on the table.

The favourite was on farmland owned by one of the Cambridge colleges, Gonville and Caius, at Duxford, nine miles south of the city centre next to the M11. Grosvenor Developments and Tesco Stores were behind the proposed "sub-regional shopping centre", with space for 4,500 cars, which would be the largest of its kind between Brent Cross in north London and the MetroCentre on Tyneside.

"There was popular outrage among the residents when the full implications became clear to them," said Lawrence Wragg, a merchant banker and chairman of the pressure group South Cambridgeshire Against Rural Extinction (Scare).

The Duxford site was to include one or two department stores, a food supermar-

ket, other shops, restaurants, a food court and a petrol station. The plans included a community service element, a modest swimming pool with a hall. It did little to stifle resistance.

At its peak, Scare had nearly 2,000 members. Pensioners gave their spare time to work for the campaign, companies allowed the group to use their photocopyers free, and schoolchildren organised sponsored walks which helped to raise £20,000 to fight the proposals.

For the four-month long enquiry which began in 1991, the campaigners hired a planning consultant to put their case. Two rival schemes to the north and east of Cambridge were considered at the same time as Duxford.

By then, though, the retail boom was over. The county council realised there was no need for such a large development and argued against it. The enquiry inspector chose Duxford as the best of the three schemes.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced last week that he was rejecting the proposal because of the damaging effect it could have on the vitality of Cambridge, and because of transport problems. He made it clear that the decision was meant to set an example.

## MANAGER

A month after leaving Sandhurst and qualifying as an Army Officer you could find yourself in charge of thirty men in the heart of the jungles of Belize.

Not only are you responsible for the lives of these men, you're also in charge of all the equipment that a group this size has at its disposal.

The survival of your men depends not only on your ability as a man manager but also your ability to manage resources.

Consequently, at Sandhurst,

much of the training concentrates on turning out cadets who are first rate managers.

You'll quickly learn the mechanics of teamworking, how to encourage and motivate people and help them reach their full potential.

We'll also help you to develop your administrative and time management skills. In fact, we give you everything you need to be an effective leader of men.

And should you find yourself deep in the jungle, on night patrol, having to live off the land, you'll be glad that we did.

## Social Worker

Picture the scene. A good soldier in your platoon has become increasingly sloppy in his work.

When you question him about this he tells you that his wife no longer wants him at home and she has also been arrested for shoplifting.

He is worried about his children being taken into care and is thinking of leaving the Army. Can you help him?

The simple answer is that you must. As an Army Officer you are responsible for your men's well being.

At Sandhurst we'll train you to deal with complex problems like this. You'll soon learn that to understand and lead a group of soldiers effectively, it is essential that you involve yourself in their lives.

A good Officer is not only courageous but also compassionate.

## Personnel Officer

After you leave Sandhurst and join your regiment you will have to recommend men for promotion, or not, as the case may be.

You'll also be responsible for matching particular soldiers to specific jobs.

Pick the wrong soldier as your platoon medic and it could prove to be a very painful mistake.

That's why as an Army Officer you'll learn how to work with people and motivate them. You'll be taught to assess soldiers' strengths and weaknesses so that you can get the very best out of every soldier under your command.

## Strategic Analyst

As an Officer in the British Army you'll have to grapple with some rather thorny problems from time to time.

Try this one for size: as part of the UN forces in Namibia you and your troops have been charged with assisting in the organisation of the first ever free elections.

It is a country half the size of Western Europe and yet many of the population live a nomadic existence. How do you ensure that everyone votes on the same day?

An Army Officer faced this very situation in 1989. Using her troops she set up a vast radio network so votes could be collected in even the remotest outposts and then relayed back to a central polling station.

The eleven month course at Sandhurst prepares Army Officer cadets to evaluate situations such as these, plan a strategy and then put that strategy into action.

## Why settle for one of these jobs, when you can do them all?

## Overseas Project Manager

The Army doesn't just train you to be a leader, a tactician, and a first rate administrator. It also offers you a unique opportunity to put these skills into practice. Within months of becoming an Army Officer, you could find yourself leading a team of soldiers on operations in the Arctic wastes of Canada or war torn Cambodia. Bearing this in mind, it's probably just as well that British Army Officer training is the best in the world.

## FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

An Army Officer has to carry out his job within budgets and is accountable for all the resources under his command.

Early on in your career this may mean effectively managing £900 to buy rations for your men whilst on exercise. However, in years to come, you may find yourself co-ordinating a project to replace the entire Army communications system. The budget would run into millions.

At Sandhurst you'll be taught the principles of financial management, which apply no matter what size the budget.

## Teacher

The eleven month Army Officer training course at Sandhurst covers a variety of topics: military tactics, orienteering, administration, even time management.

It's not only imperative that you master these skills, you must also be able to pass your knowledge on to others.

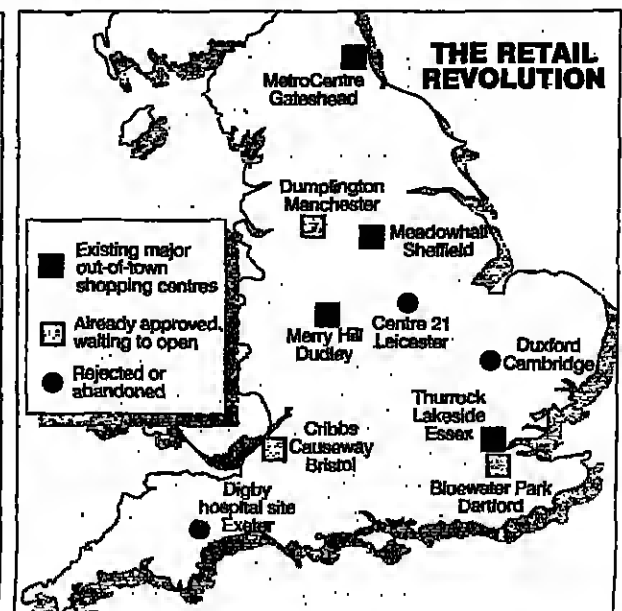
For example training your soldiers to prioritise will help no end, should you find yourself rebuilding a hospital in Western Samoa damaged by a cyclone. Armed with this knowledge your men will be able to get everything done without trying to do everything at once.

When it affects people's lives this directly it's easy to see why we spend a good deal of time at Sandhurst training you to be good teachers, as well as good Officers.

To apply as an Officer you'll need to be under 25 and ideally should have A-levels or a degree. However if you have a minimum of 5 GCSE's (Grade 4's) including Maths and English you are still eligible. For more details enter phone: 0343 300 111 quoting 2185, or post this coupon to Major John Gutteridge, Army Officer Recruitment, Freepost 4545, Dept 2185, Bristol BS4 5XN.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
I have or expect to obtain \_\_\_\_\_ GCSEs \_\_\_\_\_ A Levels  
Degree or equivalent \_\_\_\_\_

**Army Officer**



Developers with proposals for out-of-town shopping centres are nervously waiting to see how strictly John Gummer intends to curb them.

The MetroCentre in Gateshead is regarded as the largest of its kind in Europe. Other schemes described as "regional or sub-regional shopping centres" are Lakeside at Thurrock, Essex, Meadowhall in Sheffield and Merry Hill in Dudley.

There are three sites with planning permission for similarly large developments, designed to attract shoppers from several counties: Bluewater Park at Dartford, Kent; Cribbs Causeway, Bristol; and the Duxford project near Manchester.

Three other ambitious proposals have been abandoned. Centre 21 in Leicester was ruled out in favour of a smaller shopping centre.

Plans for the Digby hospital site in Exeter were abandoned when the district council decided to concentrate on city centre shops. Instead, Duxford, near Cambridge, was rejected by Mr Gummer last week.

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Visit historic Warwick Castle. Then on to Stratford to see the famous Swan Theatre, home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Delegates at a recent Porsche conference may have particularly enjoyed an evening of 'Julius Caesar'. After all, who more likely to appreciate a powerful performance full of torque?



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# Lib Dems play down European message

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats will today drop their "evangelical" approach to Europe in an attempt to rid the party of its centralist image.

A report which sets the agenda for the European elections in June puts forward the case for greater devolution and more subsidiarity. It will make clear that, although the Liberal Democrats are the most pro-European of the main political parties, they will not accept the union "warts and all".

Senior party members have become increasingly concerned that the Liberal Democrats are in danger of putting off voters by the party's apparent kowtowing to Brussels. "There will be no evangelical approach to Europe. The rose-tinted spectacles have been removed," one official said. The party, which has no European seats, is trying to play down its chances of big wins in the elections, though it could gain as many as 11 seats in the South and South West. Officials claim they will win three or four seats, but Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, hopes to pull off a more dramatic coup.

Today's report represents a

compromise between those wishing to play down the "federalist" word and the more pro-European members of the parliamentary party. It will spell out more precisely the party's definition of "federalism", which it claims has been deliberately misinterpreted by the Tory Party to mean centralisation. It will argue that, on the contrary, the party is committed to devolving power to the lowest effective level.

The Liberal Democrat document, which sets out its own blueprint for reforming the European Union, will also shelve the Liberal Democrats' previous pledge to cut defence spending by 50 per cent. The new report makes it clear that the policy cannot stand in the light of the latest events in former Yugoslavia.

"Everyone has to revise their opinions in the light of the rise of nationalism, conflict and instability in Eastern and Central Europe," it says, calling instead for a comprehensive defence review. However, the decision to drop the pledge is partly a ploy to deflect Tory charges that thousands of defence jobs would be lost.

The report, which will be



Ashdown: hoping for dramatic coup in the European parliament elections

followed by a European manifesto nearer the elections, will also suggest that, if Britain and France are to take the main roles in Nato's European Reaction Force, then both countries should be compensated by those who spend less than the average.

Over the next few months the Liberal Democrats will set their aims in a domestic context to explain to the elec-

torate what Europe can do for Britain.

In a separate move designed to turn the tables on the Tories, the Liberal Democrats have put down a Commons motion pointing out that the European People's Party has its headquarters at Conservative Central Office. While the EPP represents the right wing in Europe, the Tories are deliberately distancing them-

selves from its European manifesto. The EPP statutes support "the unification and federative integration in Europe... and the realisation of a United States of Europe". A Commons early day motion tabled by Sir Russell Johnston, the party's Europe spokesman, calls on the Tories to "either admit their support for the statutes of the EPP or evict their tenants".

## Labour tells Major to take blame for aid deal

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major was accused last night of trying to dissociate himself from the Pergau dam affair after he denied overruling expert advice over £224 million aid to Malaysia.

The Prime Minister has denied that he instructed Sir Tim Lancaster, permanent secretary to the Overseas Development Administration, to pay the money to Malaysia.

Sir Tim told MPs last month that he was told to pay the money after Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, had discussed the matter with Mr Major. He told the Commons Public Accounts Committee that he had received a written ministerial instruction to make the payment after he wrote to Mr Hurd objecting.

Sir Tim said "the final decision was taken in consultation with the current Prime Minister, in February 1991". MPs on the committee took this to mean that Mr Major had approved the decision to go ahead with the project, which critics claim was linked to promises by Malaysia to order £1.3 billion worth of British defence equipment. However, when Mr Major was asked in the Commons to list recent occasions when he had decided that a written direction should be issued overruling an accounting officer's advice, he replied: "None, so far as I am aware."

Although Labour MPs conceded that the formal decision would come from Mr Hurd, they insisted last night that Mr Major was "hiding behind legal niceties". Alan Williams, the Labour MP who put the question to Mr Major, said: "Mr Major can't distance himself from this. If he was consulted, he has to take responsibility for the decision."

### In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: defence; Prime Minister, De-regulation and Contracting: Out Bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Statutory Sick Pay Bill, third reading. Non-Domestic Rating Bill, committee. Debates on the British Youth Council and on London Underground.

Diary, page 18

## No UK scandal lurks in muddy water of Pergau

The real mystery of the Pergau arms-for-dam affair is not the recent spate of allegations, but why anyone should regard it as a great scandal. It is a murky business, but so are many such projects. The commitment to British aid for an economically dubious dam in Malaysia was in practice linked to a big arms deal. This was against the spirit, though possibly not the precise letter, of the official guidelines on overseas aid.

Along the way, there may have been corruption and bribes at the Malaysian end. There is no evidence, however, of any corruption in the British Government. Baroness Thatcher's aim was simply to increase British exports and jobs. If that involved some nods and winks about arms deals, so what. As Lord Younger, the former Defence Secretary, and a key participant, said last week:

"Great Britain has come out of all this very well." This attitude may outrage the moralists, but will not surprise anyone involved in negotiating large projects with Third World countries. This is a world of realpolitik, not of codes of business ethics — of Alan Clark, not George Carey. You do not have to share Michael Portillo's more bizarre views about commercial behaviour overseas to recognise that doing deals in Kuala Lumpur is not the same as in King's Lynn.

Big arms deals are seldom straightforward. They often involve heads of government directly and can seldom be isolated from other aspects of policy, such as aid. The heart of the story was Lady Thatcher's desire to revive trade relations with Malaysia after a breach in the early 1980s. That led to the March 1988 protocol for a defence contract signed by Lord Younger which mentioned "aid in support of non-military aspects under this programme". This reference was deleted at the insistence of the Foreign Office.

The Government has maintained the public stand

that there is no linkage, and the aid money has not been used to buy weapons. But the go-ahead for the arms deal was always dependent on the parallel decision to provide aid for the dam.

Once Lady Thatcher had agreed a memorandum of understanding with Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, other ministers, including John Major and Douglas Hurd, argued that they were bound by the understanding she had given.

That explains why Mr Hurd overruled the doubts of the Overseas Development Administration and the highly unusual formal objection by Sir Tim Lancaster, its permanent secretary. He behaved correctly since it is the Overseas Development Administration's role to assess the economic viability of projects under the aid and trade provisions. But only those who regard overseas aid as somehow outside politics can believe that this assessment should always be paramount. Some ministers question whether it would have smacked of neo-colonialist attitudes to second-guess the Malaysian government's desire to have the hydro-electric dam.

As long as Britain is involved in arms sales at all, Malaysia is a reasonable recipient. Although its government has sometimes been highly critical of Britain, Malaysia has never been actively hostile, or a threat to its neighbours like Iraq. So there is no real parallel with the Scott enquiry into the Iraqi arms affair.

The whole episode is less a scandal than an example of Lady Thatcher's distinctive approach to securing contracts with foreign governments, relying on personal contacts with leaders and businessmen and understandings which bound her ministers and successors. Corners may have been cut, but orders were obtained for Britain, and jobs were safeguarded.

PETER RIDDELL

## Lamont leads 'Valentine's Day massacre' of ERM

By ANDREW PIERCE

NORMAN Lamont will return to the political limelight next week with a warning to John Major not to take Britain back into the European exchange-rate mechanism.

While the speech, to the Dow Jones economics conference, will contain no criticism of the Prime Minister, it will refer to the circumstances which led to the Government's forced departure from the ERM when Mr Lamont was Chancellor. Downing Street will be alarmed that Mr Lamont is prepared to reopen the debate on such a divisive issue so close to June's European parliament elections, which are rapidly turning into a referendum on John Major's leadership.

Last week Mr Lamont was spotted dining separately with Michael Heseltine and Michael Portillo, two leading contenders for Mr Major's job, only days after his interview in *The Times* Magazine in which he poured scorn on the Prime Minister's leadership. The fact that Mr Lamont led Major's leadership campaign was not lost on Conservative MPs.

Tory whips will be relieved to learn that Mr Lamont will not be in Mr Lamont's sights when he speaks at the Queen Elizabeth conference centre in Westminster next Monday on "Where now for the ERM". Any analysis of Mr Lamont's performance on "Black Wednesday" will be saved for Mr Lamont's memoirs.

Also next Monday, Lord Tebbit, the

arch Euro-sceptic, will return to the fray. Lord Tebbit, who last week pledged his support for Mr Major's leadership, will chair a high-profile anti-federalist conference in the City. It will be addressed by Sir Alan Walters, Margaret Thatcher's favourite economics adviser. The conference, which will be an attack on further moves towards European monetary union, has been organised by City Concern Over a Federal Europe, which is led by Lord Tebbit, among others. One Tory source said last night: "Coming on the same day as Lamont's speech it will be the equivalent of the Valentine's Day massacre for the ERM."

Mr Lamont is concerned that Tory Party attempts to suppress debate on European union will not succeed in the

run-up to the June elections. Conservative Central Office has already banned the use of "federalism" in the Tory campaign for fear of offending Britain's EC partners.

The Thatcherite No Turning Back Group of Tory MPs has led the objections. Mr Lamont's speech will ensure that he remains at the centre of the European debate. His carefully crafted speech to the Dow Jones conference is being written by Rupert Darwell, his special adviser at the Treasury, and the latest recruit to his kitchen cabinet, Michael Romain, a political strategist, who has written speeches for Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

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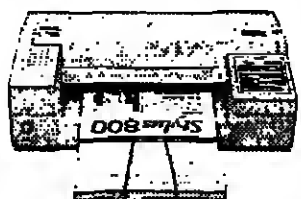
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## Bonn traces smuggling trail

## Dealers name price for nuclear terror

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German secret service has given Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, an analysis of how nuclear material is being smuggled from Eastern Europe to the West. The report also identifies customers for stolen enriched uranium, including "two extremist Islamic fundamentalist groups".

The 18-page document was leaked in the latest issue of *Der Spiegel* magazine and was confirmed yesterday by Dr Bernd Schmidbauer, who co-ordinates the intelligence services. He said that 300 to 350 genuine cases of illegal export of uranium and other strategic metals had been registered over the past two years. He said that there was as yet no firm evidence that nuclear material had been acquired by terrorists.

The secret service, the BND, has discovered that terrorists are in the market either for nuclear material or for expertise, *Der Spiegel* reported. Most deals seem to be struck

in Vilnius and Kaunas in Lithuania and the smuggled material arrives through middle men in Germany. Most of the German salesmen are under observation by the police for illegal sales of conventional weaponry. A few used to work for companies.

Cologne: Pay talks in the German metalworking industry, renewed after strikes, broke off without result. Both sides said they remained far apart. Union leaders went into a meeting of their national council to decide their next step. (AP)

now bankrupt, run by the East German Stasi. The report gives a black market price list of strategic materials: \$25,000 (£16,000) for a kilo of chromium 50; \$10 million for a kilo of lithium 6; and up to \$1 million for a kilo of caesium 137. Sources of supply have includ-

ed the Geo-Physical Institute in Tbilisi, Georgia, a storage depot for atomic submarines in Murmansk and a nuclear plant in Lithuania. Detectives are hampered in their research because there is perfectly legal and profitable business in rare metals such as scandium. The possible military function of scandium is unclear but the dealers in the metal, touring the former Soviet Union, often come into contact with purveyors of more sensitive and potentially dangerous materials.

The report says the business is thick with confidence tricksters. The German agents have a record of dealings in "red mercury", now fetching about \$300,000 a kilo, back to 1980. Frequently, the investigators said, red mercury — supposed to increase the capability of missiles or even make possible the construction of a mini-nuclear bomb — is little more than mercury or mercury oxide.

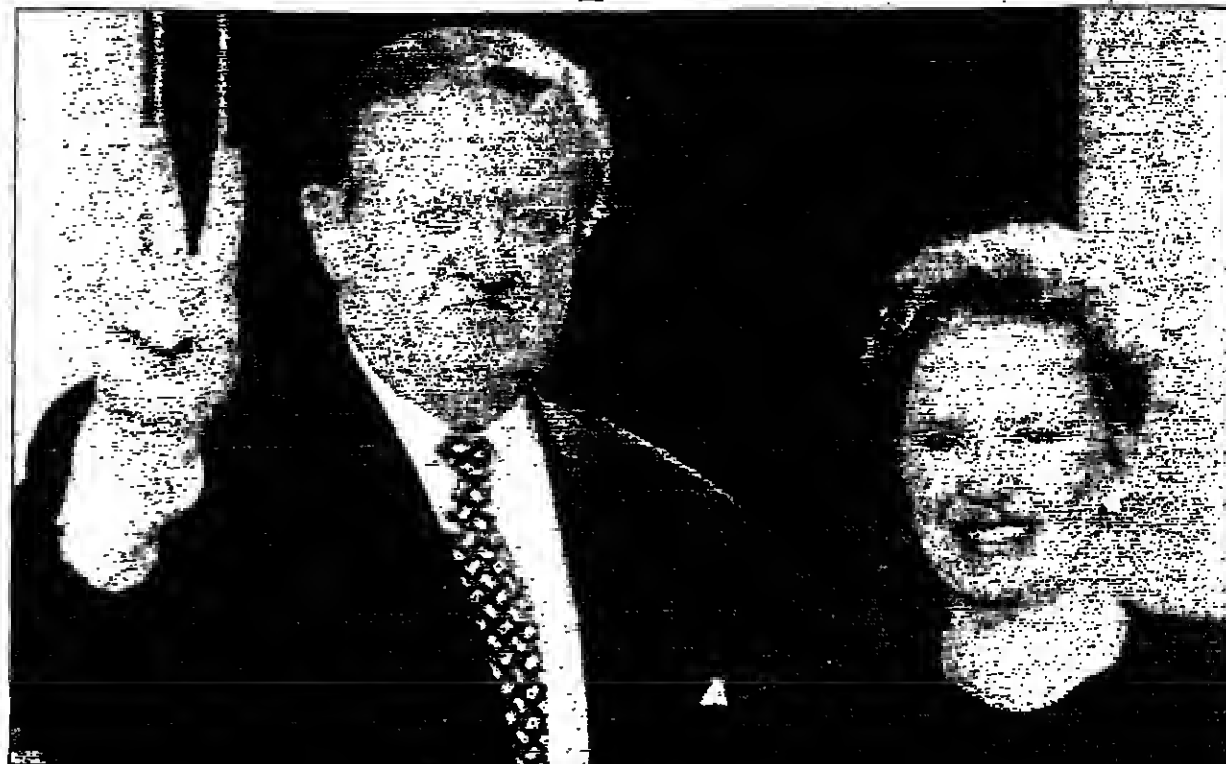
## Diplomatic Finn wins presidential race

FROM OLLI KYVINEN IN HELSINKI

THE hectic evening spent counting the results after Finland's presidential election turned into a celebration among the supporters of both final-round candidates when the loser, Elisabeth Rehn, the Defence Minister, said that her 46.1 per cent of the vote represented a great victory.

There were no tears in her eyes as she joined her supporters in a Helsinki hotel. Ms Rehn, of the minority Swedish People's Party, said: "Didn't we women score a fantastic victory? These barriers, sex and language, were broken for good. For me it was most important that we did not choose a populist campaign. Perhaps that was stupid, but I have always wanted to remain honest. I can look in the mirror and I see more wrinkles than before, but it feels damn good," the 58-year-old minister said.

The postal vote was released three minutes after the polling booths closed on Sunday and it became clear then that Martti Ahtisaari had won. The candidates embraced and said that their long-standing friendship had not suffered during the extremely polite campaign.



Martti Ahtisaari greeting the media with his wife, Eeva, after emerging as the winner from the Finnish presidential election. Mr Ahtisaari has spent most of the past 20 years abroad as an envoy

Mr Ahtisaari's supporters' party at the Social Democratic Party headquarters turned into a feast of beer and "Mara" sausage, so called after the new President's

nickname. Mr Ahtisaari scored an important personal victory, taking 53.9 per cent of the vote compared with his party's usual 25 per cent share of the poll. He said that

he would keep quiet until his inauguration on March 1. The President-elect has said that he has two important tasks for inauguration day: he will discuss with

Esko Aho, the Prime Minister, the possibility of changing the government's economic policy, and test the sauna in the brand-new presidential residence.

## Russia plumps for revolution with chocolate



The success of Western chocolate has led to grumbles about Russian 'Snickersisation'.  
Anne McElvoy reports

THE voice of the stewardess over the intercom brought, as usual, unwelcome news. "Ladies and gentlemen, due to a technical failure by ground staff in Moscow we have no food for the journey."

There were immediate stirrings of rebellion: the passengers who, having been delayed eight hours at the airport and had a four-hour flight ahead of them, were glum and hungry. On these occasions the stewardesses tend to make themselves scarce until the protests fade into sullen silence.

On this flight, however, a freshly lipstickied cabin chief, Lena, popped up a few minutes later to announce a rare treat. "We have had a kind offer from one of our passengers... he will sell you your favourite chocolate bars to replace the meal at very good prices." This modest improvement in service was greeted with a round of grateful applause and Lena began trundling her trolley, loaded with Mars, Twix and Snickers bars, up and down the aisle.

"I'll have all three," said the bulky Turkoman next to me. "And *devushka*, if you have any left please save me some. They cost fifteen times the price in Ashkabad." Hardly any of the adults declined, and the children were excited.

Western confectionery is the foreign commodity that has made the deepest penetration in the Russian market, even in areas so remote where no other foreign goods have reached. Sanitation advertising began even before the products were available to whet appetites and curiosity. This was followed by a distribution drive outstripping even that which accompanied the consumer icons of the Gorbachev years — Marlboro cigarettes and Pepsi Cola.

The victims of this sweet revolution have been the old Russian brands with ideologically sound names such as Glory and Inspiration, and the children's favourites Pushkin Fairytales and Theatrical. They have all but disappeared. Moscow's once-prestigious Red October chocolate factory has privatised itself and is said to be testing dark, bitter-sweet alternatives, more like the Soviet version. However, the habit of associating imported goods with luxury may be hard to break.

Western advertising and brand names have also introduced a new vocabulary into Russian politics. Opponents of reform lambast the "Snickersisation" of the country as a sideswipe at the flood of Western ideas and products.

Western chocolate manufacturers are now making a concerted stab at the market. But Oleg Brynin, an advertising consultant in St Petersburg, said: "The golden age is over. During the past two years of upheaval, people broke with their old buying habits and were ripe to adopt new ones. That process has already been completed. We are now starting to talk about brand loyalty in Russia where previously we concentrated on novelty value."

Selling at about 900 roubles (33 pence), Mars bars and their sister products remain a luxury for most Russians on average incomes. But one bunch of gangsters recently resorted to hijacking a delivery lorry, making off with £25,000 worth of sweets. The "chocolate robbers" have since entered the legion of folk heroes among the children in the playgrounds of Moscow.

Russia's *Cosmo*, page 16

## Georgian killer of 'CIA agent' jailed

FROM REUTER IN TBILISI

GEORGIA'S Supreme Court sentenced a man to 15 years' hard labour yesterday for murdering an American diplomat in the former Soviet republic last year.

Dzhemal Leonidze, the judge, said that Anzor Sharmadze, 21, had his property confiscated and was sentenced to 15 years in a labour camp. Fred Woodruff, 45, the diplomat, was killed on August 8 last year by a single bullet in the head while travelling in a car with the security chief of Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader.

American officials have refused to comment on reports that Woodruff was an employee of the CIA and was training Mr Shevardnadze's security team.

Georgian authorities said that Woodruff's killer did not know the victim's identity and opened fire in an attempt to stop the car and take petrol.

Sharmadze was found guilty of "premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances, carried out with hooligan motives and in a manner endangering many lives". He was also convicted on charges of burglary and the illegal possession of weapons.

Mr Leonidze said Sharmadze had pleaded guilty but had changed his plea at the last minute, denying that he had been at the site of the murder, six miles from the Georgian capital. The judge said that Sharmadze had no right of appeal.

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Vincent Foster: the man who may have known too much to survive as Clinton aide

## Clues keep up clamour on lawyer murder theory

THERE is growing suspicion in Washington that Vincent Foster, old friend of the Clintons and a key figure in the swirling Whitewater scandal, may not have committed suicide one hot afternoon last July, as is officially claimed.

The White House version is that the man who knew more than anyone about the Clintons' dealings with a bankrupt Little Rock financier shot himself in a little-frequented park overlooking the Potomac. But the question first posed by Mr Clinton's right-wing opponents is beginning to surface in the mainstream press: was he silenced to protect the President?

Foster was the Clintons' personal lawyer during the 1980s. He took charge of the Administration's Whitewater damage control after becoming deputy White House counsel early in 1993. He was also, according to members of Mr Clinton's former bodyguard, Mrs Clinton's erstwhile lover. The police and Justice Department have no doubt that Foster committed suicide.

But there are just enough suspicious circumstances to give the murder theory plausibility. Foster supposedly shot himself through the mouth, but there was remarkably little blood and gore. His body was laid out straight. The gun

*Martin Fletcher reports from Washington on a scandal that may have claimed the life of the Clintons' old friend and lawyer. Suspicion hinges on a business deal in Little Rock involving the President and his wife*

remained in his hand whereas normally in such suicides it would have been "catapulted" away from his body.

The Washington Post says the US Park Police waited nearly a month before having Foster's 1913 Colt .38 forensically tested to establish it was the weapon used. What did Foster do in the three or four hours between 1pm, when he left the White House, and the estimated time of his death? Who was the mystery caller who alerted the police to the whereabouts of Foster's body and then disappeared? Why could the bullet with which Foster apparently shot himself not be found? Whose was the empty blue Mercedes standing in the car park at the time with its hazard lights flashing? Why should a handsome, gregarious 48-year-old at the pinnacle of his career, with an adoring family and no history of mental imbalance, suddenly take his own life after a weekend at the beach?

Foster's "suicide note" is also the subject

of retrospective scrutiny. Two days after his death, Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, went through the contents of Foster's White House office in the presence of police and FBI investigators. He looked into Foster's briefcase and found nothing.

According to the White House, it was only when an assistant of Mr Nussbaum's rechecked the briefcase four days later that the 27 pieces of the torn-up note were found. It was another 30 hours before the White House gave the note to the investigators, having first shown it to Mr Clinton, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, and Foster's widow, Lisa. The note conformed with the White House line that Foster was depressed and hated life in Washington. "Here ruining people is considered sport," he wrote.

In dribs and drabs, the White House has yielded details of Mr Nussbaum's actions in those first few days, starting with his nocturnal visit to Foster's office



Vincent and Lisa Foster enjoying an evening out with Hillary and Bill Clinton, when he was Governor of Arkansas

just three hours after the discovery of his colleague's body. He was accompanied by Patsy Thomasson, a White House aide imported from Little Rock, and Margaret Williams, Mrs Clinton's chief of staff. Mr Nussbaum claims they were just looking for a suicide note and left empty-handed after just 10 minutes. Mr Nussbaum failed to seal or guard the office overnight. He

barred investigators from entering the next day. The formal search of Foster's office began on July 22 and consisted of Mr Nussbaum, citing executive privilege, sorting methodically through his colleague's papers and describing the contents but refusing to let the investigators read them. It was another four months before the White House admitted aides

had removed all files on Whitewater from Foster's office during those first few days and turned them over to the Clintons' private lawyer.

Even if Foster did indeed commit suicide, his reasons for doing so now appear more sinister. It has since been learned that the Whitewater scandal was very much on his mind that fine July day.

### Details not consistent with a suicide

□ Those first at the scene cite details inconsistent with suicide: too little blood and the gun still in Foster's hand.  
□ The post-mortem examination report has yet to be released and neither the bullet nor the mystery caller who alerted the police have been found. Foster's movements in the three hours before his death are unaccounted for.  
□ Six days after his death, Foster's "suicide note" was found in a briefcase previously checked. Only the text, not a copy of the handwritten note.

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

was released by the White House. Foster's fingerprints could not be found on the note by the FBI, only unusable palm smudges.

□ White House aides searched his office within hours of his death and removed Whitewater files. Police say the White House impeded their investigation.

□ The police report has not been released six months after the event despite the Justice Department's initial promises that it and the post-mortem examination report would be published speedily. The department is blocking their publication on the ground that they must first be reviewed by Robert Fiske, the special counsel appointed to investigate the Whitewater affair, but *The Wall Street Journal* is suing to obtain them under the Freedom of Information Act.

□ Lisa Foster was indirectly quoted as saying that her husband was depressed, but has not spoken directly to the media.

### Events leading to special enquiry

□ July 20: Foster receives two telephone calls about Whitewater. Leaves the White House at 1.00pm and is found dead in a park between 4.00 and 5.00pm.

□ July 22: Police and FBI investigators barred from Foster's office the previous day, are allowed only to watch as Nussbaum sifts through his colleague's papers.

□ July 26: Foster's "suicide note" discovered in his briefcase which had been checked four days earlier.

□ July 29: White House reveals existence of note.  
□ August 10: Justice Department and Police conclude Foster committed suicide because of depression.

□ August 12: Police finally

#### CHRONOLOGY

seek forensic tests on Foster's gun.

□ December 20: White House admits aides swiftly removed Whitewater files from Foster's office.

□ December 24: Having earlier refused to release the Whitewater files, the White House announces it will give them to the Justice Department but only under terms preventing their public disclosure.

□ January 12: President Clinton bows to pressure and agrees to a Whitewater special prosecutor.  
□ January 27: New York Post questions whether Foster was killed.

## President tables get-tough budget

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday proposed some of the most stringent spending cuts ever submitted to Congress to secure what he hopes will be the lowest budget deficit in 15 years. Senior Administration officials hailed the \$1,500 billion (£1,000 billion) budget as a return to fiscal prudence and necessary for a return to strong economic growth.

The budget deficit for the fiscal year 1995 has been put at \$176 billion, or 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product, the lowest ratio since 1979. In actual size, the budget deficit is the lowest since 1989.

Leon Panetta, Mr Clinton's budget director, praised what he called "the most consistent deficit reduction in 40 years".

In a television interview he said: "The most important thing we can do right now is to keep these deficits reduced, on a downward track. This is a \$126-billion cut from what was the projected level of the deficit."

Mr Clinton had little leeway in his budget, whose overall ceilings were constrained by last year's deficit-reduction plan prescribing a freeze in discretionary spending, that part of the budget over which Congress and the Administration have direct control.

Within this area of the budget, the President pro-

posed a shift in spending priorities involving increases in funds for crime prevention, policing, road building, technology research, and employment training. Against these increases stand decreases in public housing, public transport, and, most controversially, in heating subsidies.

Altogether, the President has proposed to cut or eliminate 300 programmes, incurring savings of about \$22 billion, which are offset partly by new investments of \$7 billion. The budget also contains a projection of a further \$59 billion in deficit reductions between 1995 and 2000 if Congress adopts Mr Clinton's health care programme.

Unlike last year's budget, which also presented the framework for a five-year economic plan of spending cuts and tax rises, this budget does not include any significant key revenue-raising measures.

Unlike those in Britain, American budgets are not set in stone once presented. The Administration has the right only to propose, while Congress disposes, and there is no chance that Congress will accept the budget in its entirety. Liberals in the Democratic Party have already threatened to fight the proposed cuts in heating subsidies.

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## Besieging troops around Sarajevo ready to turn guns against Nato strike force

# Serb firepower makes air raids high-risk choice

FROM TIM JUDAH  
IN BELGRADE  
AND MICHAEL EVANS  
IN SPLIT

NATO planes have buzzed over Sarajevo and the rest of Bosnia for almost a year. Ostensibly, they have been enforcing the no-fly zone over the country. In part, though, they have been reconnoitring and photographing every inch of the country.

If and when the order is given to take out Serb positions around the Bosnian capital they will have plenty of targets, but the risks are high, both for planes and for civilians on both sides.

Except for the airport, Sarajevo is encircled by Serb forces in the surrounding hills. The main road from the Bosnian Serb political headquarters at Pale to the local military headquarters at Lukavica commands superb views of the city from the slopes of Mount Trebevic.

Mortars and heavy machine-guns are dug into the Trebevic positions but heavier artillery is hidden in the thick woods. All the artillery and tank positions are highly mobile and could be moved within minutes of the start of an attack. Serb radar is also capable of tracking Nato air-borne activity so, in the event of an attack, it can be expected that anti-aircraft positions would be at the ready.

The Serbs, facing their strongest warning yet of air strikes by Nato bombers are, however, prepared for their biggest test. Serb soldiers on Trebevic have always been philosophical about air strikes. They say that if they die, Bosnian Muslim soldiers on the other side of the trenches will also die with them, since Serb and Bosnian forces are often no more than 30 yards apart.

■ The Serbs say that if they die, Bosnian Muslim soldiers will die with them since the two opposing forces are often no more than 90 feet apart

The strength of the Serbs lies in their artillery. Every United Nations location in Bosnia, with the possible exception of the Spanish battalion at Medjugorje, south of Mostar, is within range of Serb guns. Indeed, the Serbs have seized territory not through infantry attacks but with a barrage of artillery fire. Any decision on air strikes must take into account the risk of retaliatory action against UN garrisons. This.

### UN ruling

Security Council Resolution 836 lays down that "member states... may take, under the authority of the Security Council and subject to close co-ordination with the Secretary-General and Unprofor (the UN Protection Force), all necessary measures, through the use of air power, in and around the safe areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to support" Unprofor's mandate.

however, would rapidly worsen the confrontation.

The Serbs have former Soviet D20 and D30 towed artillery with a range of more than ten miles. Their known static artillery positions, consisting of dug-in bunkers, are at Vogosca to the north of the Bosnian capital, and Raljac and Stup to the west. Being mobile, the artillery pieces are frequently moved. The weapon that caused the carnage in

Sarajevo's market on Saturday was a 120mm mortar, which can be moved in minutes and hidden in the thick forests above the city.

The Serbs have a range of firepower, some of which has not even been used against Sarajevo. These include M87 and M77 multiple-barrel rocket launchers. The M87, which fires 262mm rockets, has a range of more than 30 miles, the M77 about 12. They have also used their artillery effectively because they have a well-organised command and control system.

They have placed their guns in key positions: the British UN camps at Vitez, where Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, visited yesterday, Gorzji Vakuf and Tomislavgrad are all well in range. The Serbs have launched the odd shell at these camps just to prove how vulnerable they are.

To keep clear of small-arms fire and anti-air missiles, Nato aircraft flying over Bosnia normally stay above 10,000ft, unless they are on photographic reconnaissance missions. The Serbs are known to have a number of such weapons, among them SA6s, SA7s, SA8s and SA9s, although there is no evidence they are currently deployed around Sarajevo.

In the first air strikes, civilians would also perish. Although most of the Serb positions are in the hills, there are also Serb-held areas deep in the city itself. Grbavica cuts into the city centre. There, as in Nedarić and Serb-held parts of Dobrinja, gun positions are placed beside homes of local residents — just as they are on the other side of the confrontation line.

Bosnian Serb politicians and the top brass would take cover at their military headquarters in Han Pijesak, 36 miles northeast of Sarajevo. The Yugoslav Army built nuclear-proof bunkers there, capable of withstanding the full force of conventional air strikes.

Air strike backing, page 1  
Peter Brooke, page 18  
Ted Heath, page 18  
Leading article, page 19



Javier Solana, of Spain, talking to Alain Juppé, of France, before the meeting of European Union Foreign Ministers in Brussels yesterday

## Bombs or bluster: the world decides

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TREMORS from the Sarajevo market massacre were being felt across the globe yesterday as political leaders discussed what — if anything — they could do about the Bosnian bloodletting.

Their so-far intractable problem is to keep the civil war at a safe distance while at the same time quelling public outrage at the daily horror.

### UNITED NATIONS

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, has asked Nato to give him the power to order punitive strikes against Bosnian Serbs. Although he may get that authority by tomorrow, he is unlikely to use it while Russia and Greece oppose the plan.

The security council has already decided, in resolution 836, to declare Sarajevo and five Muslim enclaves "safe areas" which can be defended by the use of force. But the UN leader needs a new Nato mandate to launch punitive raids.

Dr Boutros Ghali will also seek advice from military leaders on the ground and from Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN civilian mission, before giving the order to launch an offensive. Mr Akashi already has the right to call for

air cover to help reopen Tuzla airport and to help Canadian troops leaving Srebrenica to be replaced by a more heavily-armed Dutch contingent.

But in the case of Sarajevo, where UN troops are not seen as under attack, Dr Boutros Ghali must make the decision. However, international focus on the former Yugoslavia may soon switch back to the negotiating table after Serbian leaders yesterday expressed willingness to put the Bosnian capital under UN administration. Mr Akashi said yesterday that President Milosevic of Serbia favoured demilitarising the city. "He is very keen to make progress on the UN administration of Sarajevo," Mr Akashi said.

### NATO

Nato was meeting in informal session yesterday, and is expected to meet formally to discuss giving the UN leader the power he seeks tomorrow. But all Nato decisions require unanimous approval by the organisation's 16 member states, and Greece could well bar the way to consensus.

Athens is an old ally of Serbia and feels vulnerable to any spillover in the war which might arise after an attack on Bosnian Serbs. The Alliance

agreed to limited forms of air strikes in principle last August to prevent the "strangulation" of Sarajevo and the "safe areas".

### EUROPEAN UNION

Greece also balked at the idea of punitive air raids when European Union foreign ministers met in Brussels. After initially reportedly agreeing to a carefully-worded draft statement, Greece backed-tracked.

The draft said: "The aim should be to bring about the immediate lifting of the siege of Sarajevo using all the means necessary, including the use of air power." However, EU ministers went out of their way to stress the need for a negotiated end to the war and for UN relief aid to continue.

Britain has in the past opposed air strikes on the grounds that it would disrupt humanitarian supplies to the besieged area.

Britain also insisted yesterday that any air strikes must be linked to clear objectives that would help end the conflict. None the less, in London John Major advocated "immediate and effective action", although he and other leaders may feel able to

issue stronger statements than in the past if they feel that actual raids are still a long way off because of Greek and Russian opposition.

France, backed by Italy and Belgium, urged giving the besieging Serbs an ultimatum to pull back their heavy guns at least 19 miles from Sarajevo or face Nato air strikes, but their European partners were more cautious and shielded away from setting a deadline. Spain and Denmark are particularly keen to rely on the Geneva peace talks to end the protracted conflict.

The EU foreign ministers were briefed by Lord Owen, the peace negotiator, who earlier announced that the Bosnian Serbs had agreed to negotiate a peace deal for Sarajevo separate from an overall settlement.

The future of the Bosnian capital is now expected to dominate the next round of peace talks in Geneva starting on Thursday. However, these negotiations will be at a lower level than usual, with Presidents Milosevic of Serbia, Tudjman of Croatia, and Izetbegovic of the Muslim-led Bosnian government expected to stay away. "Let's deal with

one thing at a time and get Sarajevo settled," Lord Owen said in Belgrade before leaving for Brussels.

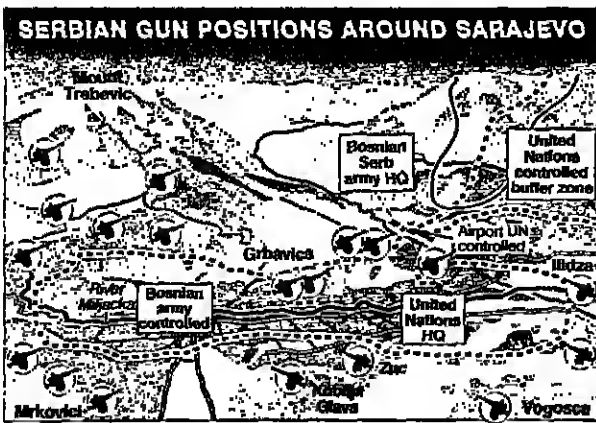
### Russia

Russia was swift to declare its opposition to Nato raids on Bosnian Serb positions yesterday. Andrei Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister, said that bombing them would be the "least successful" response. Any air strikes in densely populated areas would cost many lives and "lead to further escalation of the conflict".

He told the Interfax news agency that Russia would not accept air strikes as "punishment" for any action by the warring parties. Vitaly Churkin, President Yeltsin's special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, said that he did not believe the UN Security Council would permit punitive air raids.

### America

America, which would contribute much of the air power in any strikes against Serb artillery, is nervous about launching them and is desperate to keep troops out of the Balkans.



## Socialist victories breathe new life into French left

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

TEN months since voters trounced the Socialist government, the hopes of the French left have been fanned into fragile life with two by-election victories and a belief that Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, may have surrendered once too often when he gave in to angry fishermen.

In the most surprising result, voters in the working-class 19th district of Paris gave the Socialists back their first seat in the capital since they were driven out last March. In the Loire city of Blois, the party's candidate scored a victory in a seat narrowly held last March by Jack Lang, the mayor and former Culture Minister. In a third election, in the Alpine town of Dignes, the centre-right UDF candidate was returned, but with a better-than-expected showing by his Socialist opponent.

Socialist leaders yesterday seized on the results of the Sunday elections, held to replace MPs disqualified for breaching spending limits last year, as a glimmer of dawn. "This is a sign of a party which is gathering strength," Michel Rocard, the Socialist leader, said. Though premature, M Rocard's talk was propelled by a belief or wishful thinking that the Prime Minister's magic could be on the wane. Fueling the notion is M Balladur's failure to halt the recession and the rise in unemployment and disquiet over his capitulation to the Breton fishermen.

The package of tens of millions of pounds in aid and tax cuts, which M Balladur promised the fishermen, has

ended the strikes in all but a handful of ports in Normandy, the Channel and the southern Atlantic coast. However, the Bretons vowed last night to continue their action, demanding more subsidies.

Even pro-government newspapers questioned M Balladur's wisdom in trying to buy the government out of trouble again, but the Prime Minister says appeasement is the only prudent tactic when recession and 12 per cent unemployment have created the conditions for what he calls "social explosion". However, his critics say the approach merely encourages more demands.

Polls show that M Balladur is still soaring in popularity and remains the favourite to succeed President Mitterrand next year. However, the Prime Minister has adversaries breathing down his neck. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader who now sees his presidential ambitions threatened, made clear at the weekend that he wants to cast M Balladur as a transitional, conciliatory leader who is preparing the ground for radical change in the way France is governed.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Israelis attack in Lebanon

Jerusalem: Heavy fighting broke out in southern Lebanon yesterday when Israel attacked suspected Hezbollah targets to retaliate for the killing of four Israeli soldiers (Richard Beeston writes).

In one of the worst days of violence in the area for several months, Israeli planes and artillery pounded strongholds of the Shia Muslim guerrilla group after Israeli forces suffered their heaviest casualties in six months.

### Killers jailed

Wuppertal: Two German skinheads and a Polish-born bar owner were jailed for between eight and 14 years for kicking Karl Hans Rohm to death because they thought he was Jewish. (Reuters)

### Reform blow

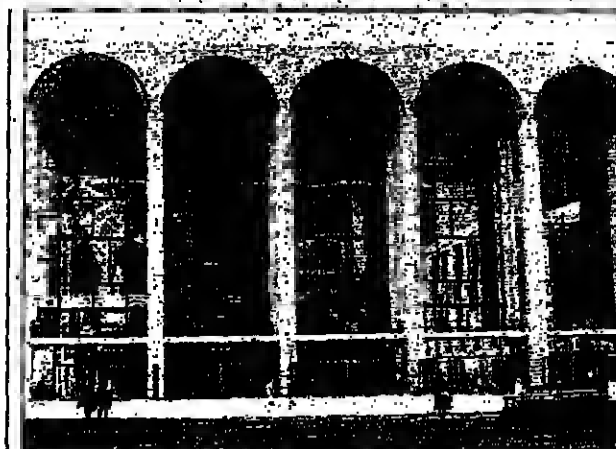
Miami: In a blow to free-market reformers, Costa Ricans have elected as their next President José María Figueres, an opposition candidate who has promised to slow down the speed of change.

### Cash seized

Bucharest: Police have seized large cash sums from the Mondoprosper company in what may be the biggest case of suspected embezzlement and tax-evasion in post-Communist Romania. (Reuters)

### Link remains

Venice: Venice will remain administratively linked to Mestre on the mainland after a proposal to create a separate city council was rejected by 55.6 per cent to 44.4 in a referendum. (Reuters)



The Metropolitan Opera House, where all the audience can soon find out what is going on

## Purists wince as Met brings in translators

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN A marriage of high technology and high art, New York's Metropolitan Opera House has pioneered a technique to help baffled opera-goers to follow what is being sung on stage: a computer screen embedded in each seat-back that provides a simultaneous translation of the libretto.

Met Title will cost about \$1.25 million (£833,000) to install and each of the 3,800 seats is expected to have the screens by next year. Although reaction has been "overwhelmingly positive", according to early reports, the idea has run into opposition from purists who argue that audience attention should be focused on the stage rather than a knee-level computer screen.

Many opera houses in the United States and Europe have "super-titling", where the translated libretto is projected on a screen above the proscenium. Such a system is impossible at opera houses such as the Met where the proscenium is so high that

members of the audience near the stage would have to tie on their backs to see the words.

The system at the Met can be switched off individually and is designed to be visible only to the person sitting immediately in front of the foot-long screen. "I dislike titles personally," Joseph Volpe, the Metropolitan Opera's general director, said. The system was adopted only after concluding that "a system could be produced that enhances the experience without distracting those who do not want to use it".

Unofficial polls of opera audiences show that eight out of ten patrons of the Met are in favour of the new system. The remaining two, presumably, adhere to the long-established view that a key requirement of opera is that it should be incomprehensible to much of the audience.

As H.L. Mencken once observed: "Opera in English is, in the main, just about as sensible as baseball in Italian."

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The fee for this conference is normally £348 plus VAT. Call Chris Kohut for further information 071 244 8984.

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# Russian girls get between the covers

Cosmopolitan is planning to launch a Russian edition in Moscow this spring. Anne McElvoy investigates

Moscow's *Cosmopolitan* girl is worried. She wants to be a kindle sexual passion in her wilting relationship, learn how to deal with bouts of jealousy and find out where she can buy this season's must-have jacket on a secretary's wages — concerns she shares with her magazine-reading sisters the world over. But it's not so easy to be an independent, modern woman when you still live with your parents in a two-room flat, your friends start wondering what's wrong with you because you're not married at 30 and there is no translation for "sexual harassment".

*Cosmopolitan*, the world's largest-selling women's magazine, launches its Russian edition this spring, a keenly awaited arrival in a market where the nearest rivals are Soviet-era titles such as *Rabotnitsa* (Female Worker) and *Christianka* (Peasant Woman).

Now Hearst Magazines International, which publishes *Cosmo* worldwide, and the Dutch company Independent Media, owner of the English-language newspaper *Moscow Times*, have decided that Russia is ready for the mix of sex, fashion and feminism.

Jointly edited by Yelena Myasnikova and Dutch journalist Ellen Verbeek, Russia's *Cosmo* is aimed at young women who hanker for that most innocent of capitalist experiences: fun. "There is a new generation of women in Russia who do not expect their lives to be one long grind of work and family," says Ms Myasnikova, a philosophy

student who has carved out a career on English-language magazines in Moscow.

"We won't be preaching heavy-duty feminism in the gloomy style of Russian intellectuals. Our target reader likes men but she is prepared to stand up to them, too. Our aim is to help her feel less alone," she says.

This *Cosmo-dushka*, she says, probably works as a secretary or translator in a Western firm or in a small Russian business. She is unlikely to be the wife of a millionaire, — if she was, she would be buying the snobbish *Imperial* which tells the *nuvorischi* where to secure marble for the pillars in their dining room — but she is aspirational in her own right and likes a hint of modest glamour in her life.

The two editors and a small staff are working from a tenement building in a central Moscow side-street and are having to cope with the technical nightmares of starting a new project in Russia — such as finding clothes to put on the fashion page. "There is no point going to the expensive boutiques and designers such as Escada, who cater to the super-rich, because most of our readers are not rich," says Ms Verbeek.

She scoured department stores and kiosks to put together a spread featuring office-wear. "Getting the shop managers to lend us clothes for the shoot was a problem because that sort of thing doesn't happen here. They were very grudging about it and surprised when we told them that, in the West, shops

## COSMOPOLITAN

МАЙ/ИЮНЬ 1994

**Секс и привычка:**  
как вернуть былую радость?

**Не позволяй зависти заслонить тебе жизнь**

**ТЕСТ:**  
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**Ирина Хакамада**  
**Владимир Пресняков**  
**Красота по абонементу**

**Возрождение в России!**

Журнал с международной славой

— впервые на русском языке

Russia's *Cosmo* has articles such as 'Thirty and Still Not Married' and how to get along with your mother-in-law

are delighted when their clothes are featured in a magazine."

The magazine's mix of contents owes much to the American model, but most of the articles will be written by Russians taking into account Russian concerns. The first edition, which goes on sale at the end of April, will tackle the subject "Thirty and Still Not Married", hardly something

the average Western reader would worry about but a matter of concern to bright young Russian women who despair of finding a suitable man and are treated with pity if they remain single.

Future topics include how to cope with the strains of being married to a foreigner, and how to get along with your mother-in-law, a pressing matter for Russian wives, who

are often forced by the shortage of housing space to begin their married life living with his parents.

"Like the British or American *Cosmo*, we want the Russian one to be the reader's older sister, someone you can turn to for advice and encouragement or to cheer you up," says Ms Verbeek. "But, of course, the differences are substantial. In the West we might be writing about women's right to abortion whereas in Russia, where abortion is a form of contraception, it makes more sense to write about how to get hold of other methods of birth control."

Articles on how to improve your love-life and a problem page are likely to be a big draw in a country where the quality press ignores the "intimate sphere" as unsuitable for public discourse, leaving matters sexual to the untender mercies of sleazy pornographic magazines. But the Russian

*Cosmo* is still likely to treat its readers sensibilities with kid-gloves compared to its English language models. "There are some words and subjects that we are still a little shy about, and we wouldn't want to make our readers uncomfortable," says Ms Myasnikova.

With an initial small print run of 65,000, circulation is being contracted on Moscow, St Petersburg and a handful of other cities to establish the brand-name before expanding distribution by subscription. At a cover price equivalent to \$2.50, *Cosmo* is being presented as a luxury, but an affordable one, in a world short on treats. "I don't care if it is the only treat I will have in the month," says one potential customer. "If it is about normal life, not politics, and small worries rather than big ones, we'll be queuing up for it."

## Demise of the tearaway Tory

The Young Conservatives used to burn Maastricht treaties. Now they are into stamp collecting

The Young Conservatives have a reputation for being keen, mean and dangerous to know. They have ripped up Maastricht treaties, burnt European Community flags and worn Hang Nelson Mandela badges.

Even many Conservative voters assume the youth wing are rowdy, off-the-wall right-wing libertarians. At the Conservative Conference in Blackpool last year their chairman Andrew Rosindell, a self-confessed Essex man with a bull terrier called Spike, demanded the return of the birch and the death penalty.

Tory headquarters are so terrified of their nursery that at the annual Young Conservative conference last weekend in Southport, Merseyside, they told them to scrap the debate on Europe. Journalists were barred from many events due to the unpredictability of the YCs and John Major yet again declined an invitation to speak.

When Channel 4's youth programme *The Word* said it was coming up to video their antics, Tory officials went white imagining scenes of Hokey Henry's throwing up in corners. Sir Norman Fowler, chairman of the Tories, rang in person to try and call off the disco. At 10.45pm, shortly before *The Word* went on air, the fire alarm went off prompted by neither smoke nor flame.

Their own generation either think that the YCs are a slightly warped social phenomenon who wear bow ties, or extreme right-wingers, politically intense and socially awkward. They wouldn't be seen dead with their fishnets and tartan micro-minis at a YC disco.

But are these accusations fair? Few people have recently attended a YC conference and it is not an image we want to sell. We want to get the young to join.

The YCs seemed doomed forever to be out of step with their political elders. Just as Conservative MPs seem to be heading for scandal after scandal, the young have become a very tame affair. YCs would not know where to start on a sex-and-shopping blockbuster and they certainly wouldn't boomerang their party with an affair. Only one girl got a

little carried away on the dance floor, otherwise the fun was entirely innocent and the drinking restrained.

Most YCs still live with their parents. They were all wearing clean-cut single-breasted suits or navy blue skirts and had neatly parted hair. YCs can remain members until they are 35 and one gets the feeling that many have joined because they are too old to remain Scouts. They tend to like stamp collecting, growing watercress, numismatics and computers.

Their Eighties left/right tussle has been maturely resolved with most YCs firmly right-wing although agreeing, niceties. Their heroes are Michael Portillo and Neil Hamilton.

Andrew Griffiths, from Sidcup, said: "We have lost a lot of the loud, Sloany people. Those who join now often don't want to be MPs. It is a way of improving their social life.

Lots of us live in the suburbs and work in the cities and this is the only way we can make friends. Everyone used to enjoy making fun out of the YCs because like a motorbike race they enjoyed the spectacular crashes, but we are quieter now."

Richard Stephenson, 17, is about to become chairman of Mr Major's constituency in Huntingdon: "I am pretty wet. Major is the man who made me go into politics when he presented the prizes at my school's swimming gala. If people had hands-on experience of him, they would like him. The YCs beat a right in a pub."

Claire Stowe, 21, Eastern area chairman, said: "The YCs here are too old, they mostly joined for the social side, but they make our disco boring. They get stale and it is not an image we want to sell. We want to get the young to join."

Conservative Central Office should beware. YC membership has dwindled from 250,000 in the Fifties to 10,000 at the beginning of the Nineties and about 7,000 this year. Instead of trying to hush them up, CCO should be doing everything it can to encourage young people to join. After all it needs all the help it can.



ALICE THOMSON

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THE TIMES  
AT 30P IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A GREAT NEWSPAPER

### The headmistress behind the success of Britain's top-independent girls' school

Just as a captain steers a ship or an editor puts his stamp on a newspaper, a headmistress colours the character of her school. So last week, after a paean of praise from Her Majesty's inspectors, the spotlight fell on Ann Longley, headmistress of Roedean, the country's most famous girls' school had acted as a guinea pig for the Government's scheme to monitor independent education. Three months later, it received a glowing testimonial.

The three inspectors who compiled the report found no area of serious concern. "Roedean", they wrote, "is an excellent school with a deservedly high reputation... It is responding effectively to changing demands, while retaining essential features of its traditions." The inspectors concluded: "The school is led with vision and enterprise."

The woman leading with such skill is 52 and dressed in a canary yellow jacket, navy skirt of conservative length and flat black pumps when we met last week in her wood-lined study near the school's imposing front door. Her pepper-and-salt-coloured hair is cut short and large spectacles dominate her features.

She immediately apologised for keeping me waiting even though she hadn't and, with a friendly smile, insisted I have more tea and biscuits. Everything around her suggested a woman whose time was limited — from the phone calls reminding her of waiting parents to the constant reminder of school bells. Her answers were quick, to-the-point and quotable. It was rather like talking to a politician running a great department of state.

What is the secret of her success? She is quick to play down her contribution, emphasising the school's his-

## What makes Roedean run?



Ann Longley: shining under the government spotlight

ory and tradition of excellence. A century ago, three sisters, Penelope, Millicent and Dorothy, opened a progressive school for young ladies near Brighton. "The aim of the School will be to give a thorough education: physical, intellectual and moral," said the Lawrence sisters' prospectus.

Ms Longley still tries to give a rounded rather than a narrowly academic education. She is in tune with the philosophy of the founders but has, she says, re-articulated the aims of the 1880s for the 1990s.

Gone are the cold baths, the tapoca and the blue-serve "dribbas" — the school frocks prescribed by the Lawrences. Gone are the matronly mistresses in gowns, uniform for the sixth form, and gone are the prunes and junket. Girls

study technology and take step-aerobics classes. They are allowed out at weekends. They have boy friends. They can eat vegetarian at lunch.

Ms Longley's aim is to prepare confident girls who can deal with any challenge. Her own life as a mother (of three children), as a wife (of a headmaster of a boarding school in America), and as a widow (her husband died suddenly of a brain tumour) and single mother have furnished her with experience of some of the hurdles that may be ahead for her girls.

For all her modesty, much of the school's character stems from her own. She sets herself projects, and achieves them, says Sue Meek, head of performing arts. The school has her to thank for launching an appeal for a new theatre. She is media-friendly and issues

press-packs. It is she who appoints the staff, mentioned in the report as being part of the school's success.

Her management style is linear, not hierarchical. Two years ago, she set up a "management structure" of five senior teachers, with which she runs the school.

Yet, say the girls, she is accessible and friendly. Tara Gibson, 17, who is going up to Oxford to read law, says: "She is viewed very well in the school. She knows all the girls' names, she knows the parents, she knows their situations. She is not at all a distant figure."

Mrs Meek also experienced widowhood and Mrs Longley was supportive, finding her a job at the school.

Born in Cornwall, Mrs Longley was a Russian student at Edinburgh University before she began a teaching career in America. It is still Cornwall which provides respite from the trials and responsibilities of running a school of 460 teenage girls. The intensity of the job is such that long holidays are an essential re-energiser between terms, she says. She adores her job.

The bell has rung, my cab is ordered. As I leave, I hear Mrs Longley greeting some parents with the same professional charm she had exerted on me. Is there no chink in Roedean's armour?

I ask my taxi driver what he thinks of the school. "I could tell you a thing or two about those girls," he says. "Proper little madams. You should hear their language."

Even the long arm of Mrs Longley cannot, it seems, extend to the inside of a cab when it ferries girls out for a night on the town.

RACHEL KELLY



Injury may send England's fast bowler home from Barbados... and an update on a pain in the side

## Bowled over by a sudden break

WHAT have Andy Caddick, the England fast bowler, a greyhound racing round the track, and a grumpy walking along a cobbled street got in common? Answer: they may all sustain a stress fracture.

Stress fractures, bones breaking without any specific injury, may occur when the bone is unusually brittle, or is badly aligned to withstand stress or bears too heavy a load. The elderly woman with osteoporotic bones who fractures her femur, or a bone in her foot, while walking on rough ground is an example of the first category. Stress fractures may also



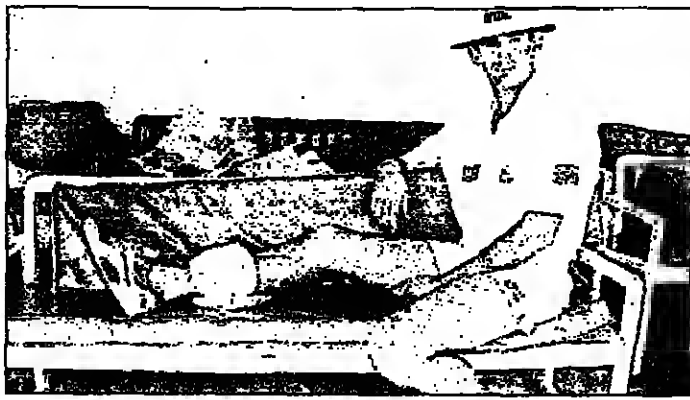
MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

happen to fit people if the skeleton is badly aligned.

Hugh Phillips, consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital, recently described about 20 cases in which a deformed knee joint had placed unacceptable stresses and strains on the obia, the heavier of the two lower leg bones, which had in consequence caused a stress fracture. The

patient's future wellbeing was as dependent on correction of the knee joint as repair of the fracture. Stress fractures, like Mr Caddick's, which are the result of normal bones having to bear an



Andy Caddick: feared stress fracture in right shin on cricket tour

unacceptable strain, are more topical. The stress can be of a sudden snapping nature, as for instance in the fibula, the smaller bone in the lower leg, which breaks while playing squash, or

the greyhound's leg which goes on a corner, or from heavy repetitive injury.

A fast bowler's legs, like the bones in a recruit's feet, receive constant hard pounding. One fast

delivery or one route march too many and the bone may fracture. The fracture may be hairline and only later become apparent. Some of the most common bones to sustain a fracture are in the lower back. Pain from these fractures could radiate to the lower leg.

## New appendix

HUMANS, a few apes and the wombat, a nocturnal burrowing Australian marsupial, are the only mammals to have an appendix: the small cul-de-sac leading off the caecum, the first part of the large bowel. One in 100,000 people has no appendix.

Appendicitis, acute inflammation of the appendix, was the cause of death of at least one of ancient Egypt's mummified royal princesses. Appendicitis now at-

tracts little scientific interest, although 80,000 patients are still admitted each year to British hospitals for an appendicectomy, which carries a death rate of 0.5 per cent, a big improvement on the 10 per cent death rate of the pre-antibiotics era.

Appendicitis was first described by Reginald Fitz, 160 years ago, an advance which enabled doctors to make a diagnosis in time for life-saving surgery. King Edward VII had an operation for appendicitis just before his planned coronation which ensured that few were unaware of the condition.

Recently a group of Swedish doctors have reviewed cases of appendicitis which occurred in their area between 1970 and 1989 and have published their findings in the *British Medical Journal*.

Twenty years ago statistics showed that appendicitis was 20 per cent more common in professional and managerial workers and their children than in unskilled labourers. Despite the modern diet the Swedish study

shows that the number of cases of appendicitis is tending to fall.

The study also found that the peak age for appendicitis was ten to 14, whereas traditional teaching has always been that the incidence is at its greatest from 10 to 30.

At either extremes of age diagnosis becomes more difficult. In one large British postwar survey it was found that 50 per cent of children with appendicitis were initially misdiagnosed and that 80 per cent of these had perforated before surgery.

Characteristically appendicitis starts with central abdominal pain in the lower right abdomen. The pain is made worse by coughing, sneezing, movement or by pressure. There is loss of appetite, nausea, usually vomiting, and in most cases constipation.

The Swedish study stressed the usual dilemma. Operate early and some patients, 30 per cent in their study, will be found to have had normal appendices. Operate too late and some will suffer a perforated appendix.

## Gift of hope after death

Aileen Ballantyne on a scheme that would greatly increase the number of organs available for transplants

The chances of your life being saved by a heart, lung, kidney or liver transplant have never been higher. The success rate for all these procedures is now about 80 per cent. But as the technology and immunosuppressant drugs have improved, so the supply of potential donors has decreased. The good news is that road safety and drink driving campaigns have reduced the toll of people dying in car accidents, while the bad news is that most of us are reluctant to carry a donor card.

There are 5,410 people awaiting a transplant in Britain, the vast majority (4,691) of them kidney patients longing to get off the painful and debilitating treadmill of dialysis. Only about one in two of kidney patients on the waiting list will receive a transplant.

There are 604 people waiting either for a heart, heart and lung or lung transplant. But one in four of these urgently in need of a heart transplant suffer the same fate as the Labour MP James Boyce - who died two weeks ago while on the waiting list. If you are in your early sixties, or over you are unlikely even to get on the waiting list, such is the shortage of donor organs.

Elizabeth Ward was the moving spirit behind the donor card scheme that began in Britain in February 1971. But now she feels a new approach is needed. Doctors, she believes, should be entitled to remove organs from suitable donors after brain stem death unless they have specifically "opted out" in advance, or unless their relatives object.

Mrs Ward, who is also founder president of the British Kidney Patient Association, knows only too well what it is like to watch someone suffering from kidney failure go through years of dialysis. Her son, Timbo, who was 13 when his kidneys failed, had three transplants. He died in 1987, aged 34. "By the time he died his body was bashed to

pieces from dialysis," she says. In one of the three transplants, he was given a kidney he should never have had because the match was poor - but it was the only option available, she says. "The worst thing was watching the pain Timbo was going through and thinking, all the while, that the organ that would have been most suitable for him had been burnt in a crematorium or buried in a graveyard."

When Mrs Ward succeeded in getting an organ donor card system under way more than two decades ago, she had high hopes for its success. "I genuinely believed in my naivety that once it was understood that over a thousand people, mostly young, would be destined to spend the remainder of their lives on dialysis unless a donor kidney was made available to them, everyone would carry one. How wrong I was."

In fact, only 18 per cent of adults carry donor cards, although according to annual Gallup surveys carried out for the British Kidney Patient Association 74 per cent of the adult population are willing to become organ donors after their death. There appears to be a huge gap between our altruistic intentions and the reality of carrying a card that is a constant reminder of our own mortality.

Only one kidney is needed for a transplant: thus by using the kidneys, heart and liver of

one donor, four lives can be saved. But Mrs Ward will face an uphill struggle in her attempts to persuade the Government to introduce an opting out scheme. Her main opponents, surprisingly, are in the medical profession itself, and without their support, the Government is unlikely to act. The British Medical Association (BMA), the professional body which represents the country's doctors, is firmly opposed to an opting out scheme.

"It is a matter of human nature and of the information that would be available," a BMA spokesman said. "This is very much a middle-class thing. People who are articulate would know what to do to opt out, but many others might not, and we would be very worried about that."

But an opting out scheme has some powerful supporters. Sir Roy Calne, professor of surgery at Cambridge University, argues that, if the scheme was well publicised and people could change their mind at any time, opting out could work well, as it already does in Austria, Belgium and France. He emphasised that even if someone had not opted out, no doctor would proceed with organ removal if the relatives objected. Such action would be regarded as unethical. Its supporters believe that



Elizabeth Ward had high hopes of the donor card scheme she helped launch in 1971: "I genuinely believed in my naivety that everyone would carry one"

an opting out scheme could change the general attitude to organ donation, making it the norm rather than an exception. Doctors need encouragement too. A medical team who have just lost the battle to save someone in an intensive care unit will not rush to take on the additional task of organising an organ retrieval team from an outside hospital for the sake of a transplant patient they do not know.

More than six years ago, the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit at Cambridge University found that organ donation could be increased by about 70 per cent if all suitable donors were identified, all relatives were asked, and the refusal rate was reduced slightly. Even a central "opting in" scheme could greatly increase the number of donors.

Such a scheme would mean that we all had the chance to indicate on a central register whether or not we wished to become donors. One proponent of such a scheme, Ross Taylor, consultant transplant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, said: "The doctor in the intensive care unit would be able to say 'your nearest and dearest has expressed his wish to become an organ donor in the event of his death. We intend to take the organs unless you object.'"

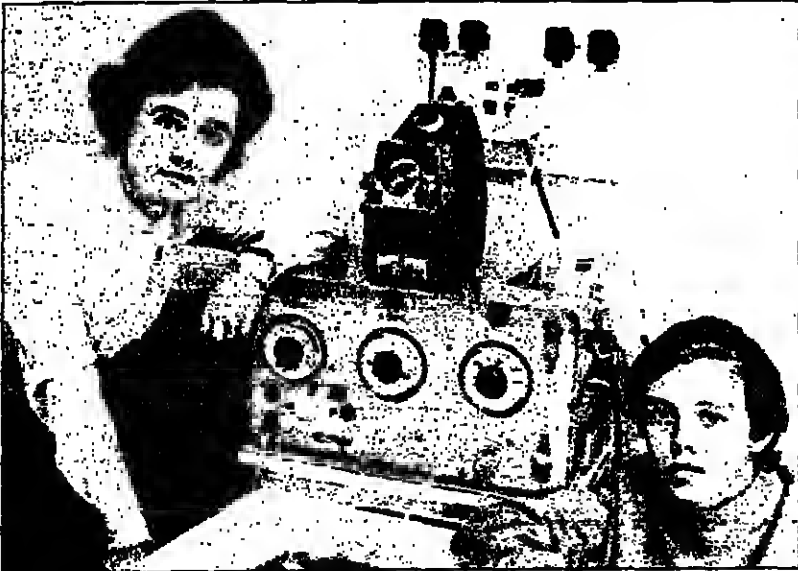
Asking such questions in the midst of grief will always be hard, and potential donors, whether opting out or opting

in, will make the whole process much easier if they express their wishes clearly to their relatives during their lifetime.

From 1978 to 1992 the num-

bers awaiting a kidney transplant quadrupled. Let Mrs Ward have the final word. "If there is anybody who has the slightest concern about the question of organ donation,

they should see themselves or their loved ones as potential recipients rather than potential donors. If you are not prepared to give, you should not be prepared to receive."



Facing life on dialysis: Mrs Ward and her son, Timbo, at home in 1972

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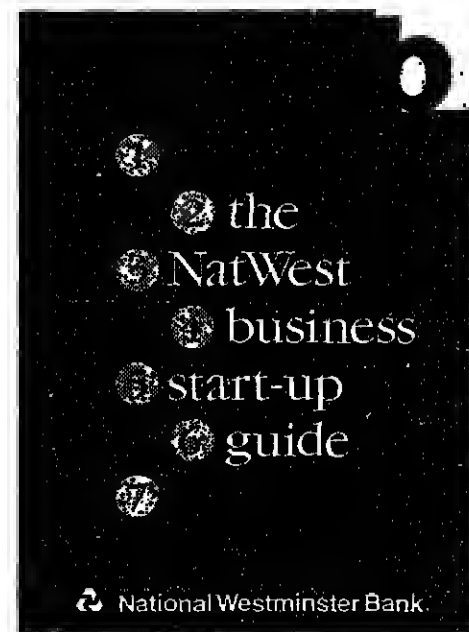
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## Lynne Truss



**Au revoir is so much easier than saying an irrevocable goodbye**

Last week, a Durham cricketer's wife visiting her parents in Australia received a rather startling telecommunication from her husband — to wit, a fax informing her that the marriage was over. In terms of goodbyes, it certainly had efficiency to commend it. "Page 1 of 1", it presumably announced at the top: "FROM: Graeme Fowler, TO: ex-wife". But was this act of arm's-length brush-off "callous and cold", merely? After all, the fax was swift and modern in its brutality, it will fade in time (literally), and mercifully it prevented the cliché marital bust-up which invariably degenerates into scuffle and fistfights. To peer and strain even further to see a bright side, at least the cricketer did not line her up on a parade ground and bark, "All those who are married to me, take one step forward. Where the hell do you think you're going, Mrs Fowler?"

Faxes for this purpose are quite rare. The more common goodbye disguises itself, for reasons of humdrum cowardliness, as "See you later" and "I'll phone you back". Last week I moved house — from London to Brighton — but like a genuine spineless dastard I flatly denied its implications on personal relationships to the last. "So we'll not be seeing you," London neighbours said. "Of course you will," I declared heartily. "I'll be back, you won't know I've gone, in any case Brighton's not far, just find East Croydon and it's easy." Why endure the pain and tears (your own, not theirs) when you can avoid it with denial? Personally I have always admitted those famous dying words which, instead of solemnly commending the soul to the maker, express "Much better, thanks: in fact, I fancy I could eat one of Mrs Miggins's meat pies". H.G. Wells's "Go away, I'm all right" is a particular favourite, but it runs close with Lord Palmerston's grandiloquent, "Die, my dear doctor? That's the last thing I shall do." So when I indulge myself unforgettably by mentioning that this down-the-side column will of course continue for ever (and see you next week, and the week after that, phone you later, go away I'm all right), perhaps you will deduce what I'm getting at.

To return to the matter in hand — the temptation to jump to conclusions, to assume it came to Mrs Fowler as a bolt from the sky, it sounds to me more like the act of a desperate person, driven to exasperated lengths. Conceivably, Mr Fowler had been leaving clues for weeks, and had finally exhausted his ingenuity. One remembers the Victoria Wood sketch that went "Jeff's gone. 'For good?' 'Well, he's taken the toothbrush.' Mrs Fowler may just have been slow on the uptake. One imagines her wandering through the bare, curtainless house, musing "Funny, where's Graeme got to?", seemingly blind to the words "I'm off, then" and "I mean it" sprayed with paint on the living-room walls.

Personally, the only time I successfully said goodbye — really felt it, surrendered to it, explored it — was when my wise Chinese acupuncturist left London for Los Angeles. (I know how this must sound, but I'll carry on anyway.) The point was, we had discussed my attitude to separation trauma, so she helped me face a real goodbye (with her), with an emotional result that was positively startling in its depth and scope. The only trouble was, it made me feel like a character from a Woody Allen movie. "Why are you sobbing?" my surprised colleagues asked, back at the office. "Why do you think?" I wailed. "Because my acupuncturist has left for the Coast."

Possibly it was the most pure and truthful emotional moment of my life, but in the end it proved limiting, because when she returned last year I couldn't face her, too much salt water having passed under that particular bridge. There is a lesson here, I feel. If only she had left me with, "No, I'll soon be home, Los Angeles isn't far, just find the Great Circle and it's easy". I would have been back to see her, like a shot, and would now be cheerfully bustling with acupuncturist needles like quilts upon the fretful portentine.

Lynne Truss will in future be writing a weekly column about television.



## There is only one feud

**Wait a minute, who is selling whom down which river? And can Tiny and the Fayed really be paddling the same canoe?**

Everybody is saying that at last Tiny Rowland has given up all power over Lorrho, and that he will now gracefully bow out of the hurly-burly of finance to cultivate begonias and raise Manx cats.

Perhaps. But I wouldn't stake my life on it, or even the lives of my begonias and Manx cats. We can be reasonably sure that the decade-long feud between Tiny and the Brothers Fayed is not going to break out again, not after they kissed and made up in that spectacular reconciliation, though I confess that I have a modest tinner each-way. But let us assume that Tiny and the Fayed remain blood-brothers to the end of their lives, that Tiny gets a weekly gift in the shape of half a pound of the very best smoked salmon, and in return has his haircut on the Harrods premises every week, there remains, apparently, a gigantic residue of Lorrho and an equal quantity of Fayedness. For once again, Robert Peston, that amazing sleuth on the *Financial Times*, this time accompanied by one Roland Rudd, has broken a magnificent story of clashes among the exceptionally well-heeled, and as I read it over my breakfast I was in danger of swallowing the toast-rack, nay, the coffee-pot itself, so helpless with laughter was I as I read on.

I could find the story nowhere else, though that does not mean it was a stunner; my guess is that the FT had snapped up every "alleged" in the land, and until some more could be got from the wholesalers nobody else could move. I, of course, am known far and wide for my impeccable even-handedness, so I need have no fear about discussing the story. And what a story.

It started formally with a writ served by the Fayed, though not against Tiny. Indeed it seems to have been Tiny himself who supplied to the Fayed at least some of the material in the writ. And the writ is a vintage corker.

It is for breach of confidence, and is directed at a Mr Graham Jones; it demands £550,000. Or rather, it demands £555,417.07. How this extraordinarily precise sum was arrived at I cannot imagine; surely a man who is looking at half a million, with good reason to think he is going to get it, would wave away the sevenpence with a lordly gesture, saying to the judge "Keep the change, my good man". But there is more mystery than that in this story, and the biggest bit of mystery is so huge, so amazing, so stupendously impudent,

that I had to read the whole thing three times before I could believe what I was staring at.

Well, would you believe that Tiny Rowland would now help the Fayed with their writing, when the huge sum mentioned was said to be paid to Mr Jones as an infiltrator against the Fayed, while the battle was going on. This is the bit that makes the head swim.

Lorrho is alleged to have paid £555,000 (don't forget the sevenpence) to the former finance director of House of Fraser, a man who supplied damaging information on the owners... the writ says that in 1990 Mr Jones supplied financial information to Lorrho which helped the conglomerate in its propaganda war against the House of Fraser.

Mind you, we have heard nothing from Mr Jones's side of the story, and it may be very different, but I have not got the story upside down: while the Tiny-Fayed struggle was at its height, Mr Jones was ostensibly working for the Fayed, but was apparently supplying Tiny, at the cost (to Tiny) of half a million quid or so, with matter damaging to Tiny's enemies. That is to say, Mr Jones was Tiny's Fifth Column. Well, no one who followed the decade of battle would be surprised at anything that the two armies did and said, but the point at which the reader — this reader, anyway — stops breathing is when Tiny may be cutting off the legs of his own man.

Listen. Mr Fayed was furious with Mr Jones. But he was unable to sue him until Lorrho handed over handwritten notes and typed memoranda purporting to show that Mr Jones gave it sensitive information and used this information to damage House of Fraser.

As I have repeatedly said, I know nothing about high finance, and I understand even less. But here is Mr Terry Robinson, who was once a director of Lorrho, and a director

moreover, whose job it was to do down the Fayed, saying that it was "extremely surprising" that Lorrho had given the anti-Jones material to the Fayed.

"Extremely surprising?" It is almost incredible, or would be if it were not that such things apparently happen every day in this weird world, although I have to say that my belief that they do happen wavered when I got to the bit about Mr Jones being given £100,000, and having stacked it away in Liechtenstein. I have been to Liechtenstein (there is an amazing parking system — if you find a ticket on your car when you have over-stayed your time, you are on your honour to put the fine into a special receptacle and go your way) and indeed interviewed a Liechtenstein lawyer whose job was to accommodate money which was if not hot, quite pleasantly warm. Nevertheless, the very thought of Mr Jones putting a fifth of his earnings in Liechtenstein made me laugh, because whenever I think of Liechtenstein I simultaneously think of Ruritania.

The FT hounds quid or so, with matter damaging to Tiny's enemies. That is to say, Mr Jones was Tiny's Fifth Column. Well, no one who followed the decade of battle would be surprised at anything that the two armies did and said, but the point at which the reader — this reader, anyway — stops breathing is when Tiny may be cutting off the legs of his own man.

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"Bond, Alan, clashes with Tiny: goes bankrupt sent to prison". Watch it, Bock.

Heaven forbid that I should try to understand the clash between Tiny and Bock, or even whether they have settled their differences and are now a pair of lovebirds. But if so, he will be looking round for another scrap.

But where do Mr Jones, the Fayed and Tiny himself stand in this astounding business of the half-million, which was paid, it may turn out, for the wrong reason? Is Tiny shopping the man whom he paid so substantially? And who, it seems, did sterling work for Tiny in acting as a double-agent? If so, why? Whatever sins Tiny may have committed, I have never heard that he double-crossed anyone, let alone anyone who had laboured in the fields for him.

Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, say the FT pair, is enjoying the spoils of the peace that recently broke out between him and Mr Tiny Rowland... Yet.

Since the critics were reached with Mr Rowland in October, he (Mr Al Fayed) has received reams of documents from Lorrho. The writ he served... is the first tangible use he has made of them.

Can it be? Can it be? Surely not — surely Tiny is not dreaming of one more round in the ring with the Fayed? No, that cannot be. But remember how unlikely it is that Tiny really will spend the rest of his life with begonias and cats. I truly cannot figure it out. Tiny is quiet at the moment, though that means little to such a noisy fellow. And I still cannot understand the mystery of why Tiny seems to be so co-operative in trying to nail Jones. If it was Jones who gave Tiny considerable help. Perhaps the solution to the mystery will be found in Liechtenstein, or more likely Ruritania. Or, Bock, for there is harder evidence that Tiny is not interested in begonias. He said just before he bowed out at last, that "It's going to be very difficult to exclude me from the running of Lorrho, because I'm still perhaps the largest shareholder in terms of shares... I'm totally independent".

Those words bode no good for Herr Bock. If there is no solution to the Tiny-Fayed-Jones mystery, and therefore no one to fight with there, the shortfall is immediately available. What is the German for "ouch"?

**Bernard Levin**

## This horse don't run

THERE IS, as yet, little sign that the political pundits believe John Major is on to a winner with his "back to basics" initiative. On the turf, however, a groundswell of support is gathering.

Not since the Gulf War gave rise to a flood of owners wanting to call their racehorses Desert Storm have there been so many applications for one single name. Weatherbys, the company which registers all thoroughbred names on behalf of the British Horse Racing Board, has had owners queuing up to be first to call their horses Back to Basics.

"We have had at least 20 owners submitting the name Back to Basics," says Paul Khan, the company's director of racing. "We may have had more Desert Storms, and there were quite a few Big Bangs, but Back to Basics has certainly caught the imagination."

However, the new applicants are being disappointed. For the name was registered back in 1992, long before Dame Barbara Cartland had a discreet word in the PM's ear. The name was bestowed on a chestnut filly, which was subsequently sold in Ireland and then shipped to Belgium by her new owner. And there Back to Basics remains, grazing contentedly at her Ostend stable, but as yet showing little form.

"She's not a very good horse," admits Janet Smith, whose husband Allan is her trainer. "She's four years old and she's been placed in races but I doubt you'll see her race in England. She's not a champion."



Our diminutive Agriculture Minister, Gillian Shephard, appears to be coming under the influence of one of her junior ministers, Nicholas Soames. In the latest issue of Country Living, Shephard declares her love for traditional British food. "Sausage

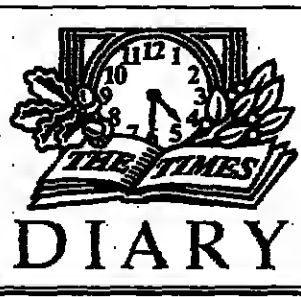
and mash, steak and kidney pudding... she drooled. 'I'm keen on pig's fry and oxtail, good roasts. And not too lean.'"

### Block unbusted

POOR Paddy Ashdown. Suddenly, after seven years, his former secretary Tricia Howard decides to bare all about their affair. And now he faces stiff competition from Edwina Currie, who, like Howard, holds extremely jaundiced views about the goings-on of male MPs at Westminster.

Ashdown and Currie are to share the platform at a Manchester literary lunch next month to promote their respective books. Currie, with an eye to making a tidy sum, has written in excruciating detail about sexual gymnastics in the Commons, without, she insists, experiencing them personally. Ashdown, by comparison, having admitted to some personal experience, has lifted his eyes way above the limited horizons of Parliament in *Beyond Westminster*.

Ashdown's aides are notably sensitive about the glossy paperback, subtitled *Finding Hope in Britain*, which retells the Lib Dem leader's experiences living with "ordinary Britons" during his "look and learn" initiative last year. And unlike Currie, who launched her ribald yarn in the Commons, Ashdown will hold a



modest launch later this month at Rodin's, the Westminster eatery. As a publishing aide admits: "It's going to be a smallish do. It will not be the world and his wife. Nor anyone else's, one hopes."

### Ha ha, or peculiar?

FOLLOWING rave reviews, Terry Johnson's new play, *Dead Funny*, is fairly packing them in at the Hampstead Theatre. The play mines a rich comic vein by focusing on the antics of the members of a fictional Dead Funny Society. Not surprisingly, the plot has not gone down particularly well with the very real Dead Comics Society, a charitable organisation which honours departed comedians by placing plaques on the walls of their homes.

"Our members don't wear arks, and we don't spend our time running around impersonating

Benny Hill or Frankie Howerd," says chairman David Graham, referring to some of the more repeatable things that members of the Dead Funny Society get up to in the play.

Richard Wakely, general manager at the theatre, insists any resemblance is, as they say, purely coincidental and not intended to upset anyone. "Terry Johnson and myself were brought up on these comics. The play is not disrespectful to the Dead Comics Society or any of the comics involved. In fact, we hope they'd be laughing at it too if they were still around."

Some complimentary tickets from Wakely mean that Graham can check that out himself. "I'm hoping to go with Jack Douglas, Melvyn Hayes and Henry McGee. We're looking forward to it — it's meant to be a great show."

### On the spot

TERRY VENABLES, recently handed the challenge of reviving England's footballing fortunes, is set to banish once and for all the doubts that have surrounded his appointment as England coach.

With England out of the World Cup, Venables plans to spend his free time this summer writing his autobiography. "Terry is determined to tell his story," says his publisher, Tim Whitfield of Michael Joseph.

But will the book's publication, pencilled in for September, lay to rest the allegations that continue to surround Venables' business activities? "You'll have to read the book," says Whitfield.

Counsel appearing for the Attorney-General in the successful bid to block the opening of Maxwell: The Musical — thereby putting a lot of actors out of work — was one Phillip Havers. Brother Nigel may not be amused. The thespian in the family has just finished filming a new thriller, Red Eagle, for BSKB.

### Unprincipally

THE Prince of Wales's decision not to accept the position of Governor General of Australia in 1988 may well have been influenced by the experiences of the first royal governor, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. Prince Henry, George V's third son, was Governor General from 1945 to 1947. His early days were far from plain sailing.

It all started with a ghastly voyage marked by diversions to avoid U-boats, plus food poisoning and appalling weather. The residences were well below "what the dignity of the Australian Commonwealth demanded". Rooms were "almost bare of furniture, pictures and electric lights", as well as linen. Highgrove sounds a safer bet.

## Air strikes would mean war

**Edward Heath says Bosnia is not worth the risk**

Last Saturday's marketplace massacre in Sarajevo has raised emotions across the world to a new level. It is rightly regarded as an outrage, and has reinforced the clamour by commentators and some politicians for "something to be done". Yes, something must be done — but what?

To that there is no answer except from those who want to use air strikes and bombing to achieve their ends. In other words they seek a military solution. Once that is recognised, there are only two possible outcomes. The first is that it fails to provide a solution and has to be abandoned with complete loss of credibility, as happened after the military activities in Lebanon. The second is that step by step the intervention has to be reinforced on the ground until it becomes a full-scale war. Even then it may be unsuccessful, leading to a withdrawal of forces, as in Vietnam. Neither is attractive, and the damage done by either could be immense.

The war in the former Yugoslavia is a civil war. Those of different backgrounds, races and religions are attempting to wipe out the legacies of centuries. Since the Second World War, these people had been held together by two things: first, the power of Marshall Tito and the system he created; and second, by the Soviet-dominated territories which ran along the border. Together these factors prevented the break-up of Yugoslavia. But the collapse of the Soviet Union removed that bond.

As the civil war has continued for more than two years, the feelings have become more bitter, the activities more savage and the determination more brutal. For the first time, British and Western European people are nightly seeing on television the horrors of murderous warfare in towns and cities not far removed from them.

All this relates to the possible use of air strikes. The immediate reaction of those attacked would be to seek their revenge on our forces — nearly 3,000 of them — and those from other participating countries. At the same time, the humanitarian relief of food and medicine would be brought to an end. Human suffering would be increased.

Moreover, if air strikes began, those implementing them would find it more and more difficult to locate their targets. Deeply forested areas with hidden tracks would provide every opportunity for quick dispersal and renewed action. What the Gulf War clearly demonstrated, however, was that even without these problems, air strikes alone could not achieve the desired end. There has to be ground support on a large scale as well.

It is significant that of the commanders on the spot, who appreciate these facts, not one has demanded the use of air power that is now being contemplated in some quarters. On strategic and tactical issues of this kind, the politicians should take note of the well-based views of those with military experience.

We should also look back to the progress of the Second World War in the Balkan peninsula. It is now calculated that 20 divisions — eight German and 12 Italian — were engaged in fighting the resistance in their mountain chains and forests. The resistance not only survived; it won.

The critics claim that the present situation would not have arisen had the British Government in particular, and members of the European Union in general, not vacillated in their attitude to the civil war. It is true that errors of judgment have been made. The untimely German rush to recognise Croatia should have been stopped by the other members of the union. The London Conference in autumn 1991 was unrealistic in demanding that all units should return to their original boundaries. Similarly, various peace plans put forward by the special representatives bore little relationship to reality.

The British Government, however, has so far been firm in its position: that military activities will play no part in dealing with this problem. It has imposed sanctions against Serbia and Bosnia. To do so now would only intensify and lengthen the conflict.

John Major is now said to want "more muscular" military activity in Bosnia, but only if the commanders feel it is the best way forward. He should show discretion in dealing with the aftermath of the marketplace massacre; otherwise there will be those who claim that he has changed his attitude only to fit with his recent "tough" face in domestic affairs. He should maintain the bold approach to this problem which he has displayed in the past. The British Government will have to do its utmost to help with humanitarian measures, in which we have an excellent record, and even to do more, but it should not become directly involved in an international war.

Nor do I believe that the British people wish to become thus involved. Certainly, the American people have shown they do not. President Clinton is prepared to use air-strikes only provided there are no American troops on the ground who could suffer from them.

We should continue patiently trying to bring about a political solution. As the warring factions see more and more clearly the damage they are doing to themselves and each other, the pressures will grow within their own camps for such an outcome. Only such a settlement will last.

Nearly 80 years ago, on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo. As a result, Europe was dragged into the First World War. We do not want that to happen again.





## D-DAY FOR BOSNIA

This time the West must mean what it says

Sarajevans had no chance to take cover on Saturday, and Europe's leaders seem at last to be realising that public opinion will no longer suffer the politicians to do so. Yesterday, European Union foreign ministers backed the use of all means, including air power, to end the siege of Sarajevo. This will be taken seriously only if it is translated tomorrow into the unequivocal Nato decision to use air power which the United Nations Secretary-General has requested. Once that has been done, Mr Boutros Ghali should, for the sake of military efficiency, devolve operational responsibility for strikes to the UN's commanders in Bosnia.

Since May, when the UN Security Council included Sarajevo among six "safe areas" in Bosnia, its Serb, Croat and Bosnian population has been under formal UN protection. With the city's cold and hungry civilians cowering in cellars, the anxiety of Western politicians to distinguish between "defensive action" and "punitive air strikes" has increasingly sounded like convenient chattering behind semantic quibbles. The appalling toll of maimed and dead is all that differentiated Saturday's shell from the Bosnian Serb barrage which has rained almost unchallenged on the city for months. The purpose of these attacks is political: for the Serbs, artillery has been a risk-free means of putting Sarajevo at their mercy and demonstrating that its people looked in vain for protection from the Nato aircraft circling overhead. Nato must now, as France has urged, give the Bosnian Serbs a deadline measured in days to lift the siege and pull their heavy guns out of range, or face attack. Air strikes might not be militarily decisive, but that does not mean that they would have no impact. For a brief moment last August, after Nato threatened to use air power to prevent the "strangulation" of Sarajevo, the Serbs judged that risk was after all involved. For a time, Serb shelling and obstruction of aid convoys were sharply reduced.

That is why the "immediate and effective action", for which John Major — pre-

empting faint-hearts on his own back benches — has called, must include the use of military power to make this random slaughter risk-free no longer. But air power, whether to relieve Sarajevo or to open Tuzla airport for relief flights, can only be part of a broader strategy. If air strikes are used, a more muscular UN posture throughout Bosnia will be required to convince the Bosnian Serbs that retaliation, whether against aid convoys or UN bases, is simply not an option. Lt-Gen Sir Michael Rose's refusal to brook the obstruction of humanitarian aid is an overdue approach which deserves whole-hearted political backing.

A new toughness should also include sanctions against Croatia, as guilty now as Serbia of military intervention in Bosnia. Justified before Saturday's Serb attack, they are no less justified now and the EU should have included that on yesterday's agenda. Douglas Hurd is right to insist that the purpose of military action must be to bring peace closer. But the way to bring peace about is not to cling to the pernicious, and counter-productive, habit of blaming the victims for refusing to accept the surrender note offered them by Lord Owen.

The Bosnian parliament yesterday offered a new formula, dividing Bosnia into four cantons under loose central government. It merits serious treatment, but Lord Owen may not be the man for a fresh diplomatic start. Yesterday he was lamenting that the Bosnian Serbs were on the brink of permitting the UN to take over the administration of Sarajevo — as though it were weak administration, rather than military siege, that is laying the city waste. By giving its blessing to Lord Owen's scheme yesterday, the EU sent the Serbs totally the wrong message, encouraging them to believe that they can carve up Sarajevo at the negotiating table — buying security from air strikes while they talk. The way to end this terrible war is to give the Bosnian government some hope of fair treatment. This equivalence between aggressor and victim must end.

## LESSON FROM THE FED

American interest rates are rising, but Europe's must fall

By the time that Wall Street reopened yesterday afternoon, world financial markets showed every sign of having survived the Federal Reserve Board's decision to raise American interest rates. The move was a distinctly unsensational quarter of a percentage point to 3.25 per cent and the calm reaction of the markets was wholly appropriate. That does not mean, however, that America's first increase in interest rates for five years was a non-event. On the contrary the Fed's modest move will, in time, have important implications for America, for the global economy and for the financial markets. Whether the impact proves damaging or benign will depend largely on whether policymakers on this side of the Atlantic conduct themselves with the intelligence and pragmatism of Alan Greenspan and his colleagues at the Fed.

For America, the Fed's policy will almost certainly be beneficial. Friday's quarter-point move is almost certain to be followed by further monetary tightening in the months ahead. If American interest rates rise to around 4.5 per cent by the end of the year, as futures markets have long been assuming, there is bound to be some reduction in America's economic growth. But America is now near the end of the rapid recovery stage of the economic cycle. Factories will soon be operating at peak capacity. Unemployment is down to 6.4 per cent and seems almost certain to fall to around the 6 per cent level, which experience suggests to be about the lowest sustainable level consistent with stable prices.

For all these reasons, it is perfectly proper for the Fed now to shift the gears of economic management. In the past two years the Fed's main objective has been to reduce unemployment and accelerate recovery. Having achieved this, the Fed must now pay more attention to controlling inflation and

move the economy from an unsustainably rapid growth path back onto the long-term trend of sustainable growth.

Unfortunately the governments and central banks of Europe have been far less skilful in conducting their monetary policies than the Fed. The danger now is that narrow minded inflation-fighters at the Bundesbank, the Banque de France and the Bank of England will try to use the increase in American interest rates as their latest excuse for delaying the further cuts in interest rates which are still clearly necessary in Britain, Germany and the rest of Europe.

Analogies between monetary conditions in Europe and in America are entirely inappropriate at present. Not only are American interest rates much lower than Europe's — and likely to remain lower even after the further increases expected later this year. Even more importantly, the European economies are far behind America in the economic cycle. While the American economy has been recovering steadily for more than two years and has now eliminated almost all its recession-induced unemployment, the recoveries in Germany and France have not even begun, while in Britain, unemployment is still nearly one million higher than it was in early 1990.

With the American recovery now liable to slow, it will be more essential than ever for Britain and other European countries to set their interest rates to reflect their domestic economic conditions, instead of watching currency markets, relying on an external stimulus from exports or trying to imitate policies abroad. If the Bank of England and the Bundesbank want to learn from the Fed's excellent performance they should now emulate what Mr Greenspan has been doing since 1990: they should cut interest rates further and follow a policy committed to employment and economic recovery.

## AN UNFAIR COP

Discrimination against women is still rife in the police

Nearly two decades after equal opportunities were enshrined in law, female officers still make up just 13 per cent of Britain's police forces. No woman has ever served as a chief constable and many specialised police units still operate an unofficial exclusion policy. While a few women are starting to break down the bastions, the service's culture is still steeped in sexism. An investigation by *The Times*, published yesterday and today, shows that in this respect, the police simply do not reflect the society they are supposed to serve.

The anecdotal evidence is damning. When one woman applied to join a dog unit, a senior officer on the appointment board said: "We don't have bitches with the dogs and we are not going to have them among the handlers." One woman officer was spied on in a station shower and another has complained of groups of male officers running their hands over their female colleagues to see whether they were wearing suspenders.

A few women officers are making great advances. Liz Neville, profiled in *The Times* yesterday, is in line to become the first ever woman chief constable. And both the Home Office and individual forces have become aware of the problems women face and are

taking steps to redress them. The Home Office's inspectors of constabulary are urging chief constables to recruit more women. The Police Federation recently issued a leaflet condemning sexual harassment. And part-time working has just been introduced in order to allow women officers with small children to remain in the service.

But these moves are alien to the traditional canteen culture which imbues much of the police. Some male officers now complain that political correctness is being forced upon them, when actually the police are merely being asked to treat women with the respect that is accorded to them in the rest of society. If a man in any other field thought that he had the right to fondle or grope a female colleague or to spy on her in the nude, he would find himself up before an industrial tribunal. In the police, women can be too intimidated to complain.

This matters not simply because women police officers deserve a better deal. It matters too because the way in which the police treat each other can spill over into their dealings with the public. Women are starting to claim their rightful place in the rest of society. It is time that the whole of the police service caught up.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, On BBC TV's *Question Time* (February 3) Mr Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, said during a discussion of the broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein: "The reason it was introduced is that it was abhorrent that relatives of people who had just been killed in Northern Ireland — should the next day wake up and hear spokesmen for the IRA justifying the butchery of their loved ones on the radio and on the television..."

Whatever the arguments for or against the ban, let there be no misunderstanding of one point: as one who was responsible for all of ITN's broadcasting from 1977 to 1991, I can say with certainty that at no time did we ever broadcast IRA justification for murder or any words which came near it. I am confident that BBC News did not broadcast any such coverage either. This apparent reason for introducing the restriction is a fiction in politicians' minds created to provide an emotive excuse.

I have checked today with colleagues and we cannot recall complaints about giving a platform to terrorists from Government, from the Independent Broadcasting Authority or from the public. British broadcasting has had the unique experience of having to report for over two decades on a continuous terrorist campaign within its transmission area.

Politicians should reflect upon the debt they owe to courageous and responsible correspondents and camera crews in their reporting of Northern Ireland (with very, very few errors of judgment). Their reporting, with pictures, has exposed to the British public the true nature of terrorism — its inherent inhumanity and indiscriminate cruelty to innocent people. That is why, after 25 years, the IRA have not advanced a single centimetre in winning the opinion of plain people.

I write the Secretary of State to produce specific instances of the alleged abhorrent broadcasts in which terrorists were allowed a platform in news programmes to justify murder. They never happened.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID NICHOLAS,  
The Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,  
February 6.

### Philippines disaster

From Professor M. J. Perkins

Sir, The rainfall and flooding of recent months in parts of Britain (article, January 17; letter, January 26) may have brought misery to some, but are as nothing compared with the catastrophe that has befallen tens of thousands of Filipinos in the last year whose homes were to the vicinity of Mount Pinatubo, and are now buried under some of the cubic kilometres of ash spewed out by the eruption.

Much of this is washed down from the upper slopes as "lahar" during the annual rainy season; it spreads out and is deposited on the surrounding lowland, engulfing homes, villages and townships, as well as much good agricultural land, in its unstoppable path. It will be a major problem for years to come.

Patterns of natural drainage, and consequent flooding, have been affect-

### 'Tribalism' between the churches

From the Reverend Gavin R. P. Ashenden and the Reverend Roglan Hay-Will

Sir, Tim Bradshaw, Dean of Regent's Park College, Oxford, refers to "the powerful corps of Roman Catholic journalists writing corrosive articles" aimed in a campaign to undermine the Church of England ("Anglicans fear the Catholics who conspire", January 29; also letters, February 3). He is being less than "ecumenically correct", but he expresses a growing frustration widely held by both Anglicans and Catholics.

The frustration is not just that of annoyed Anglicans tired of sad and aggravating Catholic journalistic militancy in the broadsheets; it is frustration that our own forms of vituperative tribalism seem to have so much life in them still.

We grow tired of the endless tribal conflict in the erstwhile Yugoslavia, fought along religious fault lines; anxious about the growing tension between Orthodox and Catholic in the Ukraine; weary of the daily brutality in Northern Ireland. What we experience at the hands of this corps of journalists is a diluted form of the same kind of tribalism.

It is a foolish nonsense to suppose that either religious community is in considerably better health than the other. What is worse than nonsense, what becomes dangerous, is when religious partisanship flourishes and drains our community of the few resources we have to heal an already divided society.

One of the more extraordinary phenomena of recent decades has been the intelligent and sympathetic rapprochement of Anglican and Catholic communities. Both of us admire more of each other's strengths and sympathise with each other's plights.

Faced by the splits in communities that proliferate daily, nationally and internationally, we have too much to offer a divided world than to squander it in the infantile point-scoring of a particular journalistic cabal.

Yours etc,  
GAVIN ASHENDEN,  
RAGLAN HAY-WILL  
(Anglican and Roman Catholic chaplains),  
The University of Sussex,  
Meeting House,  
Falmer, Brighton, Sussex,  
January 30.

ed not only by clogged waterways, but by changes in surface contours resulting from earthquakes which had preceded the eruption, so that two-hour coach journeys regularly take a day — if they can be completed at all.

I was astonished to learn, on my return in October from four months in Manila, that none of my friends here was acquainted with this continuing tragedy in a country that is seldom the subject of balanced reporting in the British press. For example, you failed to mention that the world population of the magnificent Philippine eagle, pictured in your columns (January 25), which may now number fewer than 30 birds, has within the past two years been enhanced for the first time in a captive breeding programme pioneered at a small conservation centre near Davao City on Mindanao.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PERKINS,  
8 Barclay Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent.

### Prescription charges

From Mrs Christine Funnell

Sir, The news (report, February 3) that prescription charges are likely to rise yet again by 50p from April is bad news indeed for people with long-term medical conditions. Although people with diabetes or haemophilia are automatically entitled to free prescriptions, people with asthma, arthritis, eczema and many other long-term conditions are not.

Many are entitled to free prescriptions by virtue of age, pregnancy or low income. For others their regular visit to the chemist is becoming more and more expensive. It would be a false economy indeed if people stopped their medication and aggravated their conditions.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTINE FUNNELL  
(Vice-Chair),  
The Long-Term Medical  
Conditions Alliance,  
c/o 18 Stephenson Way, Euston, NW1,  
February 3.

From Miss Marie Anne Foskett

Sir, While waiting in a local pharmacy yesterday evening I noticed that no one on that occasion paid for their prescriptions. The routine went like this: Assistant: "Good evening. Are you exempt from charges? Please tick the box." No reply needed from the customer, or proof of entitlement.

I watched this performance five or six times — no one paid. I am told that the same routine is enacted at dental surgeries by those who prefer not to pay NHS charges for dentistry. Doesn't something need tightening up?

Yours faithfully,  
MARIE ANNE FOSKETT,  
185 New Kings Road, SW6,  
February 3.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

### Hospital's loss

From the Dean of King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry

Sir, I write on behalf of colleagues and friends of the late Marquis of Normanby (obituary, February 1) who knew and admired him during his very long association with King's College Hospital. He was appointed by Aneurin Bevan as the hospital's chairman in 1948 and was reappointed by successive secretaries of state right through to the first reorganisation of the NHS in 1974.

Lord Normanby's business was managing estates and he brought this expertise, with enthusiasm and deep concern for individuals, to bear at King's. With single-minded determination he soon achieved a well-managed and economic hospital at Denmark Hill.

Under his chairmanship, the hospital was amalgamated in the mid-1960s with the local hospitals of Camberwell and Dulwich, so becoming

### Organ donation

From Mr Nigel Evans, MP for Ribbles Valley (Conservative)

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Rout of the National Kidney Research Fund (February 1); also letters, February 3 regarding making donor cards of durable plastic. However, as I pointed out in the House of Commons on December 17 last year, the greatest need is for a national registration scheme through which those who wish to donate organs can have their wishes confirmed on computer records. This would speed up and facilitate the process greatly.

Far too many people forget to carry their donor card and many others fail to inform relatives of their wish to donate organs in the case of death. A registration scheme would resolve these problems.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL EVANS,  
House of Commons.

From Mrs Anne Shore

Sir, I am appalled that in Christian Unity Week *The Times* publishes the irrational article by the Dean of Regent's Park College, Oxford. A "papist plot" — really! Is this the reign of Elizabeth II or have I missed the last 391 years and we are back with Good Queen Bess?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE SHORE,  
23 Chapel Street, Hagley,  
Nr Shourbridge, West Midlands.

From Mr J. D. Long

Sir, I would differ in one minor respect only from Tim Bradshaw's timely article. In the light of the nature of the Roman Catholic Church is it really likely that this concerted and sustained attack could be happening without, at least, the tacit approval of Cardinal Hume?

It is surely all of a piece with his unfortunate lapse while in Rome concerning "the conversion of England" (report, March 5, 1993) as well as with the present Pope's spiritual imperialism, which so angered the Orthodox Church.

If these attacks continue I fear the outcome could be very different from that which these journalists hope for and will further weaken the cause of Christianity in this country.

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. LONG,  
12 Oaklands, Gosforth,  
Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Mr Michael Rothwell

Sir, I felt there was a whiff of bonfire smoke in Tim Bradshaw's article. I have always understood that plots were secret affairs, not announced daily in three or four broadsheet newspapers.

Writing as someone who left the Church of England to become a Catholic, I can only say, in all honesty, I've never had better relations with Anglicans in my life. To mark the recent week of Christian unity, Archbishop Carey and I exchanged the warmest of letters. The Dean of Regent's Park College might suspect some furtive ulterior motive. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ROTHWELL,  
86 Lots Road, Chelsea, SW10.

### Opera ticket prices

From Mr Michael D. Varcoc-Cocks

Sir, Richard Morrison writes (Arts, February 3) that the "spectacle of heavily subsidised opera houses trying to flog ridiculously priced tickets for performances by overpaid singers is clearly an affront to public decency". It is an affront, but the implication that all the additional money provided by the higher prices goes to the "overpaid" singers is wrong.

Later this season, the Royal Opera is putting on some performances of *Carmen* with Domingo and some without. The extra ticket income from the exorbitant prices charged for Domingo totals about £90,000 per performance.

Opera house managements are notoriously secretive about fees paid to singers — completely inappropriate where substantial public funds are provided — but it is unlikely that even

### 'Bosnia switch-off' must not happen

From the Executive Director of Feed the Children (Europe)

Sir, Your article (February 1) could not be more timely. For the next few weeks central Bosnia will continue to have deep snow, the mountain roadways from Split up to Vitez and Tuzla will be even more of a logistical nightmare and the cold alone will cause severe problems and pain to many thousands of civilians.

Whether people are still surviving in their own homes or sheltering in ruins, serious deprivation will cause illness, madness, death. Those in gymnasia, hostels and halls will sink further into their wretchedness, their empty days, their personal horror. More psychiatric patients will be abandoned, more children at play will be shot, more funeral parties will be attacked.

The civilians, who have so far taken 90 per cent of the injuries and deaths in this war on people, will reappear on our television screens and increasingly become ghastly tokens of living history.

There is an inevitable risk that the more we see, the less appears real. This is another type of offence: the numbing of minds, war as living-room wallpaper, killing as chewing gum for the eyes. The convoys, the so-called peace talks and ceasefires, the attacks on aid workers, all amalgamate into an image that we can learn to accept or "switch off".

And what does switching off Bosnia mean? Ignoring the thousands who have so far been saved, the great amount of aid that has been taken in, the current containment of the conflict, the inadequate but not yet non-existent care and concern.

To switch off Bosnia is to switch off the UN and Nato, the potential of Europe. To switch off Bosnia would mean deserting millions of ordinary people and sending a negative message to others whom we "protect".

Switching off and pulling out mean the same thing: denying the success of what has been achieved to date and can still be achieved.

Yours etc,  
DAVID GRUBB (Executive Director),  
Feed the Children (Europe),  
82 Caversham Road,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
February 2.

Domingo will get much more than £20,000 per evening.

Clearly the Royal Opera is milking the market for whatever it can get, but maybe a country where people will pay £374 for a pair of stalls tickets to see Domingo in *Carmen* deserves nothing better. The same tickets at New York's unsubsidised Metropolitan Opera House this season will cost £150 a pair, including performances where Pavarotti and Domingo are singing.

Whatever problems reduced Arts Council funding poses, the fact that Covent Garden glibly raises a further sum of £70,000 or so a night from opera-goers which does not represent the additional cost of a "star" such as Domingo is more than an affront: it is an insult.

Yours faithfully,  
M. D. VARCOC-COCKS,  
5 Brackenbury Road, W6,  
February 3.

### Arts Council grants

From the Executive Chairman of British Youth Opera

Sir, In defending the Arts Council's decision to hire staff to distribute National Lottery funds, the secretary-general of the council states (letter, February 7): "The Arts Council delivers excellent value for money. We are set to cut our general overheads by £600,000 in the coming 12 months."

Could some of this "excellent value" be directed at the national youth companies, please? It is a scandal that year after year, the Arts Council devotes a minute sum to training and performance opportunities for the most outstanding young artistic talents in the country.

For example, almost all the principals who have appeared with British Youth Opera since 1987 are now singing principal roles with leading opera companies both at home and abroad.

Last year BYO had to raise £250,000 to fund its activities. The Arts Council's grant to BYO was £12,500.

Roll on the lottery.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS COE,  
Executive Chairman,  
British Youth Opera,  
South Bank University,  
103 Borough Road, SE1,  
February 7.

### Off the road

From Mrs Janet West

Sir, My elderly golden labrador was recently prescribed some medication by our vet. The instructions advise: "Avoid alcohol. May cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive or operate machinery." I have taken the precaution of confiscating her car keys.

Sincerely,  
JANET WEST,  
Chusan, Farley Court,  
Farley Hill, Berkshire,  
February 5.







## OBITUARIES

## JOSEPH COTTEN

Joseph Cotten, screen and theatre actor, died in Los Angeles on February 6 aged 88. He was born in Petersburg, Virginia, on May 15, 1905.

JOSEPH COTTEN started his Hollywood career well enough, as Orson Welles's most sceptical admirer and friend in *Citizen Kane*. But, with a few notable exceptions, he rarely subsequently lived up to this brilliant start or proved able to guide the direction of his meandering career. He had a tendency to deprecate his own talents and if he ever privately saw film-making as much in public. "We make a living out of acting and pray we don't get associated with too much junk," he was once reported to have said.

But with the right director behind him — Welles, Hitchcock, Carol Reed, King Vidor — there was much more to Cotten than the leather-faced romantic lead he mostly played in the 1940s. His screen persona, which remained much the same for forty years of film acting, was built upon the combination of decency and ineffectuality. In the two Welles films which established it, *Citizen Kane* (1941) and *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), it came across as its most attractive and honourable, although in both films Cotten's character ends on a note of failure. Vidor — in *Duel in the Sun* (1946) and *Beyond the Forest* (1949) — stressed the ineffectuality, as did Reed in *The Third Man* (1949). Only Hitchcock saw the way Cotten's handsome features could be made to slip into moroseness. He cast him as one of his most charming, perverse and monstrous villains in *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943).

The key to Cotten's limitations as an actor lay in his childhood. Joseph Cheshire Cotten was born a son of Virginia, then a famously sleepy part of the world. He never saw any advantage in doing things the hard way. The fact that he retained his soft, Southern drawl and was incapable of doing other dialects only seemed to help his career.

He studied drama at the Hickman School of Expression in Washington, where, to make ends meet, he also worked as a professional footballer and a paint salesman. Afterwards he sold space for *The Miami Herald*, and wrote occasional pieces of drama criticism for the paper. His first professional acting was for a small theatre in Miami, but his breakthrough came in 1930 when he was engaged by David Belasco as assistant stage manager and understudy for a few productions.

He moved to New York and appeared in *Jezabel* (1933), *Account of Ruth* (1935) and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1936). In 1937 he joined Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre, the company that gripped America with their radio version of *The War of the Worlds* in 1938. He left after two years to play the lead opposite Katharine Hepburn in *The Philadelphia Story* on Broadway.

Cotten's Hollywood debut came when Welles asked him to play his friend in *Citizen Kane*, a thinly-



Joseph Cotten, as Uncle Charlie, with Teresa Wright in the 1943 Hitchcock thriller, *Shadow of a Doubt*

disguised biography of the newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst. Cotten was ironically cast as a drama critic. Though Welles never lived up to the promise that the film seemed to offer, it served as a very effective launch-pad for Cotten. They worked together again in *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), where Cotten was utterly convincing as the persevering admirer of Isabel (Dolores Costello) not quite acceptable to her fading, aristocratic family, and in *Journey into Fear*, the same year, as an engineer who becomes accidentally embroiled in some shady Middle Eastern plotting.

From Welles's influence, Cotten passed into the equally embracing hands of David O. Selznick, who signed him for a seven-year contract with his independent production company. His first loan-out, to Hitchcock for the part of Uncle Charlie in *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943), proved to be an inspired piece of casting. Just as it is impossible now to imagine Psycho without Anthony Perkins, so Cotten's performance as the murderer of rich widows, a mixture of charm and menace, was crucial to the film's

success. Hitchcock was drawing Cotten away from the decent type he normally played (a fact underlined by the film's suggestion that his crimes were motivated by sex as much as profit). But Selznick insisted on seeing Cotten as a conventional romantic lead and for the next few years he was either carefully loaned out or employed in the most orthodox parts opposite Jennifer Jones. He played the Scotland Yard detective in *Castle of the Living Dead* (1944) and in the same year gave an attractive performance as an old family friend, still in love with Claudette Colbert, in *Since You Went Away*.

He teamed up with Ginger Rogers in *I'll Be Seeing You* (1945) and starred opposite Jennifer Jones in *Love Letters* (1945). He was with her again in King Vidor's *Duel in the Sun* (1946) — playing her good but repressed brother opposite Gregory Peck's destructive one — and in *Portrait of Jennie* (1948), which won him the best actor award at the Venice Film Festival. In 1949 he made his second film for Hitchcock, *Under Capricorn*, again cast as a less likeable character, an ex-convict who makes a new life for himself in Australia with Ingrid Bergman. In the

same year Cotten landed one of his best roles, in *The Third Man*, as the naive writer of hack Westerns looking for his friend Harry Lime in the ruins of Vienna. Carol Reed's adaptation of Graham Greene's thriller pitted Cotten's American decency against Welles's more charismatic European cynicism. The famous ending (after Welles's funeral, Alida Valli walks past Cotten, sitting by the side of the road, without turning her head) summed up everything ineffective about Cotten's character.

It was his last good film for some time. Now without Selznick, the offers were starting to dry up, and though Cotten had aged little in appearance, he was — at 45 — considered old, by Hollywood standards, to play romantic leads. He settled increasingly for portrayals of hen-pecked middle-aged men, as Benjie Davis's decent doctor husband in Vidor's *Beyond the Forest* (1949), singularly failing to appreciate any of her needs (when he remarks that they never go fishing enough, she caustically replies that he "never does anything enough").

The part of Marilyn Monroe's intended murder victim and smitten husband in *Niagara* was another good one, but generally the standard of films he took on in the 1950s — including such flops as *Special Delivery* (1955), *The Bottom of the Bottle* (1956) and *From the Earth to the Moon* (1958) — went downhill.

Cotten returned to Broadway with *Sabrina Fair* and *Once More With Feeling*, both successes, but his choice of parts on the screen looked increasingly erratic. He took on small parts in big films like *Hush* (1964) and *Perulia* (1968) and appeared in Italian westerns and Japanese productions. He was one of the few stars in *Tora Tora Tora!* (1970), and played a surgeon pursued by Vincent Price in *The Abominable Dr Phibes* (1971).

His fortunes temporarily improved with the futuristic thriller, *Soylent Green* (1973), and with the film version of Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (1975) opposite Katharine Hepburn. They fell again with *Airport 77* (1977) and the appalling, and notoriously extravagant, western *Heaven's Gate* (1980). In television drama, he appeared in *Split Second* to an *Epitaph*, featuring Raymond Burr as Ironside (1968), and played General Marshall in the BBC's *Churchill and the Generals* (1979). Despite the poor quality of some of the productions with which he was later associated, he never wanted to stop working.

Fate intervened in 1981 when Cotten suffered from a massive stroke and lost his voice entirely. Speech therapy allowed him to talk again, but his acting career was over and in 1990 his larynx was removed altogether, after a recurrence of cancer. He turned to sculpting and writing during the 1980s, and published his autobiography, *Vanilla Will Get You Somewhere*, in 1987.

Joseph Cotten is survived by his second wife, the British actress Patricia Medina, whom he married in 1960, after the death of his first wife, Lenore.

## GENERAL SIR CHARLES

## RICHARDSON

General Sir Charles Richardson, GCB, CBE, DSO, member of the Army Board, 1965-71, and the deviser of the El Alamein deception plan, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on August 11, 1908.



Scientific soldier: Richardson examining military paint pigment under the microscope

ONE of the longer-serving members of the Army Board, Charles Richardson served first as Quartermaster-General and then as Master-General of Ordnance. Although he was too young to hold a major command in the Second World War, he provided much of the intellectual power of Montgomery's operational staff from the Battle of Alam Halfa in August 1942 until the German surrender on Luneburg Heath in May 1945.

His greatest personal impact on the war was to devise the deception plan for the Battle of El Alamein which persuaded the Germans that the Eighth Army would attack later than it actually did, and in a different place. Later, as a brigadier responsible for planning on Montgomery's staff in northwest Europe, he was a tireless proponent of the concentrated thrust from the Seine through the Aachen gap into the Ruhr — as opposed to the American preference for the advance on a broad front which in fact took place.

Charles Leslie Richardson was from one of those military families in Northern Ireland who have contributed so many officers to the British Army. His uncle and father, Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Richardson, RA, of Lurgan, County Down, had been, respectively, at Sandhurst and Woolwich. A scholar at Wellington, Richardson junior entered Woolwich, where he won both the Sword of Honour and the King's Medal. In 1928 he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers and went to Clare College, Cambridge, before going to India to join the Bombay Sappers and Miners. His time in India is delightfully described in his autobiography, *Flashback* (1985), which is also a personal account of the inner workings of Montgomery's headquarters.

Cynics often say that there are real engineers and Royal Engineers, the latter being better soldiers than engineers. Charles Richardson was both. At Cambridge he had taken a First in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos and had seven years practical engineering experience on the North-West Frontier to back it.

Soon after war broke out Richardson went to France as Adjutant, 1st Corps Engineers. There he was in charge of organising the line of pillboxes and anti-tank defences on the British Expeditionary Force's sector of the Franco-Belgian frontier. After three months he was brought back to the Staff College, Camberley, but got through his course in time to be returned to France in May 1940 at the outset of the German Blitzkrieg.

As deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General of the 4th Division he took part in BEF's advance into Belgium to link up with the Belgian Army on the line of the River Dyle. Then, as the magnitude of the disaster to the French armies to the south became apparent, and advance turned into retreat, he was involved in the withdrawal to, and evacuation from, Dunkirk.

After a period in England he then did a year as an instructor at the Staff College, Haifa, before joining Special Operations Executive in Cairo. There he directed clandestine operations throughout the Middle East.

Richardson's career at Eighth Army Headquarters started in the chaos of the withdrawal to El Alamein after the British defeat in the battles of Gazala in June 1942, when he took over as GSO 1 (Plans) to General Auchinleck.

He was one of the very few officers serving under Auchinleck who survived Montgomery's purges of his predecessor's staff when he assumed command in August that year. He became one of the three officers, with David Belchem (Operations) and Bill Williams (Intelligence), who were to form Monty's trusted executive staff under Freddie de Guingand.

The deception plan for the October offensive at El Alamein was brilliant in concept and highly successful in execution. It was aimed to persuade Rommel that Montgomery could not attack before mid-November, and would then do so in the southern sector as Rommel himself had done at Alam Halfa. Richardson suggested a false timing by constructing a dummy water pipeline towards the southern sector at a pace that would indicate to the German photographic interpreters a completion date in November. Meanwhile, a judicious series of camouflage "lapses" created the illusion of a carefully disguised concentration of troops in the south. Bogus radio traffic and the use of rumour in Cairo heightened the deception. In the event, Rommel was on leave in Germany when Montgomery attacked on October 23, and the bulk of the Afrika Korps was watching the southern sector.

Richardson stayed GSO 1 (Plans) until the end of operations in Sicily; and then he had a spell as British Deputy Chief of Staff in General Mark Clark's Fifth Army Headquarters for the Salerno landings and the advance to Cassino. He returned to Montgomery as his GSO 3 (Plans) for Overlord in April 1944.

In 21st Army Group Richardson's task was to be several mental steps ahead of Montgomery, exploring the probable outcome of operations and advising anticipatory action. At one point, early in the Normandy invasion, he became Monty's representative at the Air Headquarters at Stanmore when relations between the Army and the air planners were in disarray. And it was he who did most of the planning for operations after the break-out from Normandy which led to the bitter controversy with Eisenhower over whether to try to end the war quickly with a thrust into the heart of Germany as Montgomery advocated, or to Middle East.

Richardson's career at Eighth Army Headquarters started in the chaos of the withdrawal to El Alamein after the British defeat in the battles of Gazala in June 1942, when he took over as GSO 1 (Plans) to General Auchinleck.

With the war over Richardson, like many other success-

ful regular officers, had to mark time. His steps towards the Army Board were: Commandant, Singapore District, 1958-60; Director of Combat Development, 1960-61; Director-General of Military Training, 1961-63; and GOC-in-C, Northern Command, 1963-65.

As Quartermaster-General (1965-68) during the turbulent years of the Healey Defence Reviews, he was faced with the major logistic problems of the withdrawal from East of Suez, and of the redeployment of the Army in the United Kingdom and Europe. However, his most outstanding service to the country lay in the drive he applied to Army equipment policy in his last appointment as Master-General of Ordnance (1968-71). He began the development of whole families of weapon systems for the re-equipment of the Army in the 1980s and 1990s.

Charles Richardson will always be remembered for his pishish sense of humour, which tended to mask his ruthless determination to get things done. He joined ICL as military consultant when he retired; and also spent much of his time looking after the regimental affairs of his corps as Chief Royal Engineer. His work was particularly appreciated by the veterans of the Royal Engineer Association.

In his later years he turned to writing. After *Flashback* he published *Send for Freddie* (1987), a biography of his wartime boss, General Sir Francis de Guingand. From *Churchill's Secret Circle* to the BBC, a biography of General Sir Ian Jacob appeared in 1991. Besides illuminating his period on Monty's command team, the autobiography *Flashback* ranged over early SOE operations in the Mediterranean and handling the Russians in Berlin after the war, as well as recalling the dire days of Dunkirk. Its concluding paragraph sums up the philosophy that supported Richardson throughout a long military career: "Now, at the age of 77 I ask myself what sustained us nearly fifty years ago in those terrible times of impotence and disaster. I believe it was the conviction that the British Army would, in the end, prove superior to the Wehrmacht, not because of a greater talent for killing, but for qualities that lay much deeper: its long tradition of civilised duty, of incorruptibility and self sacrifice."

Charles Richardson married in 1947, Audrey Styles, daughter of Captain C. R. E. Jorgensen, and is survived by her, a son, a daughter and a step-daughter.

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## WINTER SPORTS

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## NEWS

## Europe edges towards intervention

European foreign ministers edged towards military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday when they backed the use of air power to try to break the siege of Sarajevo.

The move came after John Major had called for "immediate, effective and more muscular action" to end the bombardment of the city. A decision on whether to use force now lies with Nato. Pages 1, 14, 18 and 19

## Mystery surrounds death of Tory MP

Westminster was shocked last night by the death in mysterious circumstances of the Conservative MP Stephen Milligan, 45. The MP for Eastleigh Hampshire was found dead at his home in Chiswick, west London. There was no sign of forced entry to the flat or immediate indications of the cause. Pages 1 and 3

## Shares plummet

Shares fell sharply in London and other financial centres in reaction to the rise in American interest rates signalled at the end of last week. Page 1

## Maxwell musical ban

A High Court judge has granted an injunction banning Maxwell's *Musical* two weeks before its West End opening. Page 1

## Surgery blunder

Thirty women sterilised by a locum surgeon risk becoming pregnant after he botched one operation. Page 1

## Arms and aid link

A British arms deal with Malaysia was linked to aid which was used to finance the controversial Pergau dam project, according to a senior diplomat. Page 2

## Ram rescue

The wife of a security van driver was kidnapped by thieves who were only foiled when her husband rammed their car. Page 3

## Search for gifted

Primary schools have been urged to identify gifted children as young as five in a government drive to challenge outstanding pupils. Page 7

## Errors led to death

Fundamental errors of judgment by social workers led to the murder of three-year-old Leanne White by her stepfather, a report has concluded. Page 5

## Russians taste chocolate revolution

Western confectionery is the foreign commodity that has made the deepest penetration in the Russian market and the victims of this sweet revolution have been traditional brands with ideologically sound names such as Glory and Inspiration. Opponents of reform in the Duma lambast the "Snickerisation" of the country. Page 12

## Nuclear smuggling

A leaked German secret service report shows how nuclear material is being smuggled from Eastern Europe and identifies customers including two extremist Islamic fundamentalist groups. Page 12

## Driver crackdown

New drivers convicted during their first two years may have their licence withdrawn and have to retake a tougher test under new measures. Page 9

## Lamont warning

Norman Lamont will return to the political limelight next week with a warning to John Major not to take Britain back into the ERM. Page 11

## Suicide doubts

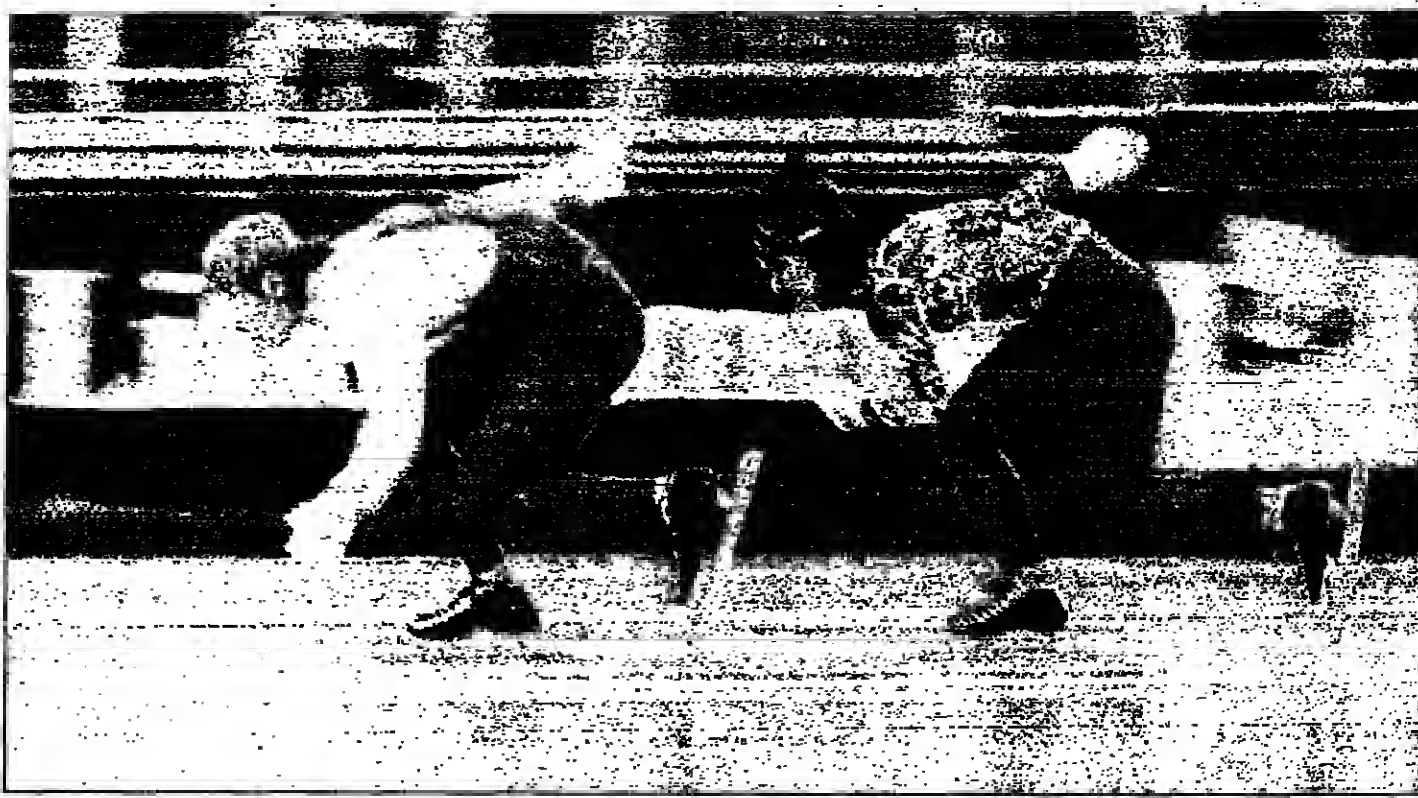
There is growing suspicion that Vincent Foster, close friend of the Clintons, may not have committed suicide last July, as is officially claimed. Page 13

## French left revives

The hopes of the demoralised French left have been fanned into fragile life with two by-election victories and a belief that the prime minister, may have surrendered too often. Page 14

## Azerbaijan oil deal

President Aliyev of Azerbaijan says an agreement for Western oil companies to develop the country's rich off-shore fields could be achieved in weeks. Page 15



Korean speed skaters training yesterday in Hamar, Norway, in preparation for the Winter Olympics which begin on Saturday. Page 42

## BUSINESS

**Markets:** Shares on the London stock market fell sharply in response to Friday's decision by America to raise short-term interest rates. The FT-SE 100 fell 56.3 points to close at 3419.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 81.7 to 82.0 after a fall from \$1.4924 to \$1.4809 but a rise from DM2.5904 to DM2.6104. Pages 23 and 26

**Lloyd's:** Hopes of a strong recovery in Lloyd's of London's fortunes are likely to be dashed by predictions from Chatter. Page 23

**Political clash:** Rank Organisation faces an embarrassing clash with private investors. Page 23

## SPORT

**Rugby union:** Don Rutherford, technical director, has called for a select panel of referees for leading international matches but has found little support. Page 44

**Athletics:** Eamonn Martin, who will defend his NutraSweet London Marathon title on April 17, will face tough opposition say the race organisers. Page 40

**Snooker:** Neal Foulds, successful in only two matches this season, surprisingly beat John Parrott, the world No 2, 5-3 in the second round of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley Conference Centre. Page 40

## HEALTH

**Reddy judged:** What happened to the Young Conservatives' reputation for being keen, mean and dangerous to know? Alice Thomson reports. Page 16

**Uphill struggle:** Just as the technology and immuno-suppressant drugs for transplants are improving, the supply of donors is decreasing. Page 17

**Fierce fight:** If the embattled Lloyd's members reject the £1 billion offer, they face paying their own compensation. Page 33

## FILM

**Jarman's last film:** At the Rotterdam Film Festival, Derek Jarman's *Glitterbug* has been premiered: it is a "visual diary" covering 15 years of his life. Page 39

**Sheridan's defence:** "The spine of the story is true and responsible," says Jim Sheridan, of his much-criticised Guildford Four film, *In the Name of the Father*. "We actually went easy on the judiciary." Page 39

**Freud in New York:** After years of neglect, the painter Lucian Freud now finds himself the talk of Manhattan, as a large exhibition of his work is mounted. Page 37

## TV LISTINGS

Black Americans hoping to become Second World War pilots were told that they were mentally inferior. *Network First: Nightfighters* (ITV, 10.40pm) Page 43

## OPINION

## D-Day for Bosnia

The "immediate and effective action" for which John Major has called must include the use of military power. Page 19

## Lesson from the Fed

Narrow minded inflation-fighters at the Bundesbank, the Banque de France and the Bank of England must not use the increase in American interest rates as their latest excuse for delaying further cuts in interest rates. Page 19

## An unfair cop

Nearly two decades after equal opportunities were enshrined in law, female officers still make up just 13 per cent of Britain's police forces. Page 19

## POLITICS

## EDWARD HEATH

There are only two possible outcomes to military intervention in Bosnia. The first is that it fails and has to be abandoned. The second is that it has to be reinforced on the ground until it becomes a full-scale war. Page 18

## BERNARD LEVIN

Even if Tiny Rowland and the Fayeds remain blood-brothers to the end of their lives, there remains a gigantic residue of Lonhitude and an equal quantity of Fayedness. Page 18

## CULTURE

Joseph Cotten, American screen and stage actor; General Sir Charles Richardson, Member of the Army Board. Page 21

## LETTERS

Appeals for peace between Catholics and Anglicans. Page 19

## REVIEWERS

After the latest slaughter in Sarajevo, nothing would be worse for the credibility of the West than an angry outburst without any following action. — *Le Monde*

With no follow-up strategy, Serb blockbuster mortars will be back. — *USA Today*

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## Ignoring the Supremacy legacy

Alastair Horne, biographer of Harold Macmillan, wonders why the Tory Party want to forget his legacy

## Is there a conspiracy?

Roger Graef asks if journalists and broadcasters are conspiring with the spin-doctors to obscure important issues

## New uses for old churches

Can a priceless architectural heritage be put to further use for some of its oldest and most beautiful buildings?

## PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Sue Thomson, one of 100 female police officers in Britain qualified to use a gun, has learned to ignore sexist remarks when she trains others. Page 8

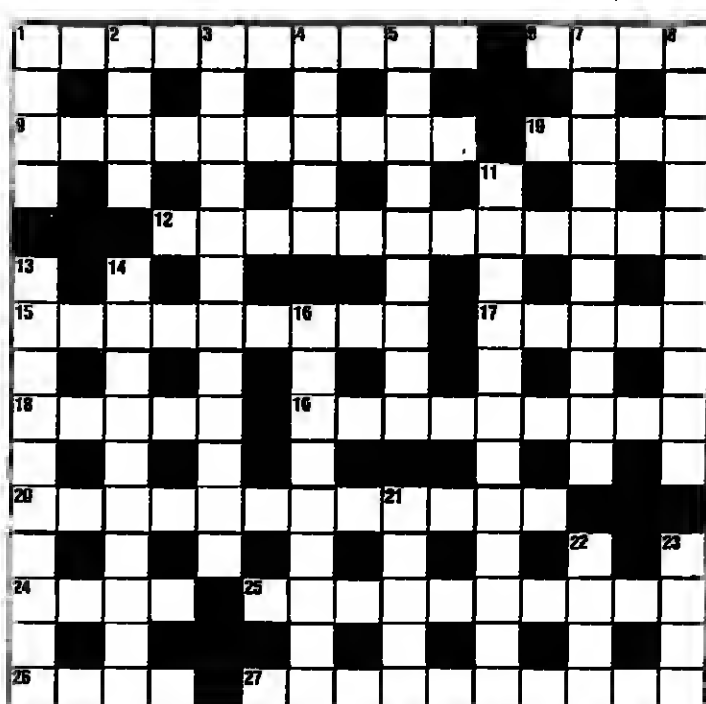


Cas Human, an African farmer, is the ANC's surprise choice to spearhead its election campaign in part of the Orange Free State. Page 15



Francis Lee's new regime at Manchester City began with smiles all round and promises of solidarity after the first board meeting. Page 40

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,460



- ACROSS**
- One might take flight, being haggard (10).
  - Keep quiet — it's semi-confidential (4).
  - Rose's thing is making lace (10).
  - Complain bitterly about Matilda or Billy here (4).
  - Copper failed to get transfer to first-choice position (5,2,5).
  - Sportsman who plots to reach the goal (9).
  - It occurs in the midst of our Biblical span (5).
  - Solemn warning from king to his favourite (5).
  - View laid at work, naturally very destructive (5,4).
  - Press for the Kingdom to keep United at the front (5,6).
- DOWN**
- Chest fracture (4).
  - An empty honour, blow it (4).
  - Thin rain coursed over roof, to ruin rendering (12).
  - In clothes not at first well-worn (5).
  - Notes about travelling were carried round side of hill (9).
  - For handling bills, there's only one place in such a system (10).
  - Arthropods busy in the fields? (10).
  - Names of mountains, we are told (12).
  - Very old music for Topkapi's hymn? (4,2,4).
  - Send message to ship for tool (4,6).
  - Cut tree once — damage caused round top of trunk (9).
  - Representative item to recognise in Scotland (5).
  - The French range through Scottish island (4).
  - Sportsman's strip (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,459

SETS CREWS SWIFT  
T A N T C N H  
E X O U N D E A C T O R  
A E A N R B E  
M O R E L N E C H A I N E  
B E G H B C  
O V E R S E E N P A I R  
A D S R A T E  
T A U T S E A G R E E N  
C D T S L A  
A B A S E M E N T I R O N S  
B I T F S O T K C  
R A I M E N T R E T R A C E  
I O A B E E P N  
M O N E T R E S T R A I N T

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
West Surrey	702
West Sussex	703
West Kent & Dover	704
West Essex	705
West Hertfordshire	706
West Bedfordshire	707
West Cambridgeshire	708
West Norfolk	709
West Suffolk	710
West Essex & Essex	711
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West Essex & Essex	730

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
South East	733
South West	734
West Country	735
Wales	736
Midlands	737
East Anglia	738
North-West England	739
North-East England	740
Scotland	741
Northern Ireland	742
AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.	

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, Cefn, and Gwynedd, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Llanfair, 4C (39F); highest night temp: Bournemouth, 10.5C (51F); lowest night temp: Colwyn Bay, 4C (39F).

## FORECAST

**General:** England and Wales should be dry and bright after a frosty start. Rain is likely to push into western parts in the morning and all but East Anglia and the extreme southeast by evening. Clearer, showery weather will follow on into the west. Scotland and Northern Ireland, although dry at first, will become wet and windy. The rain will turn more showery over Northern Ireland later. After a chilly start, temperatures will pick up to near average.

**London, SE England, E Anglia:** Frosty start, mainly dry and bright, rain after dark. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh. Max 8C (46F).

**E, NE, Central S and central N England, E and W Midlands, Channel Isles, Borders:** Frosty start, dry in morning, wet in

## FORECAST

afternoon, drier after dark. Wind south, becoming westerly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

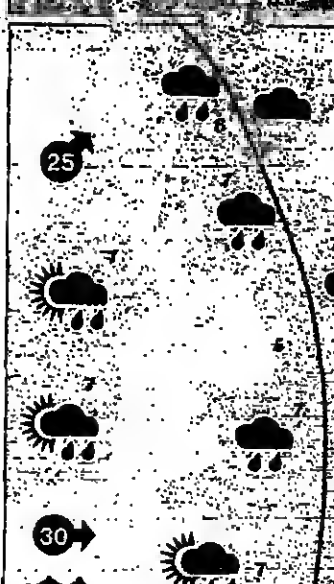
**SW and NW England, S and N Wales, Lake District, tot, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** Rain in morning, brighter with showers in afternoon. Wind southwesterly, fresh, locally strong, becoming westerly. Max 8C (46F).

**Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll:** Cloudy, becoming wet. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh, becoming strong to gale later. Max 8C (46F).

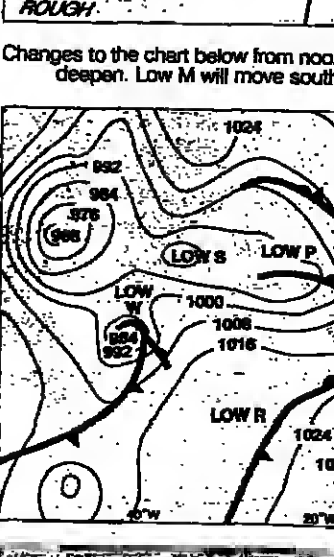
**Orkney, Shetland:** Showery. Wind southerly, becoming southeasterly, fresh. Max 5C (41F).

**Outlook:** Unsettled with showers or longer periods of rain.

## MOON TODAY



## CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOWS W AND R WILL MOVE NORTHEAST AND DEEPEN. LOW M WILL MOVE SOUTHEAST AND FILL. HIGH T WILL MOVE EAST



## TODAY

LOCATION	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge			12.18	6.03
Aberdeen	11.51	4.08	—	—
Abermouth	5.23	11.02	5.55	12.00
Belfast	9.28	3.32	8.54	3.25
Cardiff	5.06	10.98	5.40	11.14
Davenport	3.54	4.30	4.27	4.50
Dever	9.29	5.98	9.55	5.11
Edinburgh	3.24	4.70	3.57	4.70
Glasgow	11.26	4.70	11.56	4.40
Harwich	10.12	3.69	9.58	3.05
Holyhead	8.47	5.19	10.18	5.16
Hull	4.42	8.62	4.56	6.60
Inverness	4.17	8.29	4.48	8.31
King's Lynn	-4.51	5.80	5.01	6.00
Leamington	12.50	5.03	1.06	5.14







# Fed move has little impact on UK rate cut hopes

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE US Federal Reserve's decision to launch a pre-emptive strike against inflation should have very little impact on the arguments for and against another cut in UK rates.

Turnover in financial markets in London and continental Europe yesterday after the Fed's decision to edge its Federal Funds rate up to 3 1/4 per cent from 3 per cent had little rational basis though psychology played a part. The Fed move simply reminded

investors that interest rates can go up as well as down.

There are many reasons why investors in Britain should not be alarmed. First, Britain is at an earlier stage in its economic cycle, about a year behind the US. It is yet to enter its third year of recovery and, more than that, faces serious questions of whether that recovery can be sustained in the face of unprecedented tax rises over the next two years.

Second, the outlook for British interest rates hinges far more closely on what happens with European

rates rather than US ones. Analysts yesterday said the Fed move probably will make little difference to the Bundesbank's attitude towards monetary policy, unless the mark were to continue to fall sharply against the dollar — deemed unlikely.

Alison Correll, senior European economist at Midland Global Markets, believes the mark is unlikely to come under persistent pressure against the dollar and the outcome of wage talks with the IG Metall engineering union are more important to the Bundesbank on rates. In

Britain, despite the Fed's move, there is a large body of opinion in favour of rate cuts: the only question is timing.

The compelling argument for further cuts from the current 5.5 per cent base rate is that, without them, the recovery could falter over tax rises. But this judgment is very difficult at this stage because no-one knows how consumers will react to them.

The other argument for rate cuts is that a strongly appreciating pound would erode export competitiveness when European markets are hostile because of recession. The Fed's

interest rate move has only limited relevance here. Sterling's first reaction has been to strengthen against the mark and fall against the dollar. Its trade-weighted value, which the Bank of England probably watches more closely than individual rates, is unlikely to show much net change.

The third reason in favour of lower UK rates is the inflation outlook has consistently confounded pessimists. Today sees the publication of the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report, expected to be more optimistic than the last report in November.

## Consumers indulge in burst of borrowing

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH consumers indulged in a burst of borrowing in December, contradicting official figures showing a 0.2 per cent fall in retail sales during the month before Christmas.

The Central Statistical Office said net new lending to consumers rose to £443 million in December, from £290 million in November. This was a much larger total than most economists had expected, after the rather disappointing overall retail sales figures. The increase was mainly due to higher lending by finance houses. This, at £398 million, up from November's £262 million, was the highest for five years.

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions about how robust consumer confidence is, and will be in the months ahead, though the latest figures are encouraging on the surface. There is enormous uncertainty about whether consumers will go on spending in the face of huge tax increases which start to hit their pockets in April. There are also some strange quirks in consumer behaviour, suggesting that all may not be well.

One puzzling aspect of the figures was the strength of finance house lending. This form of credit is often used to

buy cars and household goods, which were not very strong in December. Another interesting feature is that consumers seem to have borrowed on the most expensive terms (such as credit cards) and repaid relatively cheaper overdrafts.

Peter Warburton, chief economist at Robert Fleming, said there was no clear overall interpretation of the figures. His guess was that consumers were attracted by very fine pricing in the high street and generous credit offers before Christmas but that this might not last. "Consumers can dip in and out of the market very quickly and my suspicion is that they have already started to cool off," he said.

However, Don Smith, of Midland Global Markets, said the net lending figures were very strong, with the average over the past six months at its highest level since June 1990. He speculated that December's figures might have understated retail sales because of problems with seasonal adjustments.

Another positive report came from Infolink, the credit information organisation, which said that the number of consumer credit enquiries had risen by 15 per cent in December.



Crushing burden: estimates of damage from January's Los Angeles earthquake range as high as \$30 billion

## Earthquake likely to cost insurers \$2.5bn

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN property and casualty insurers estimate that insured losses from the Los Angeles earthquake on January 17 will total at least \$2.5 billion. The Property Claim Services division of the American Insurance Services Group said it expected about 234,000 claims.

Three-quarters of California's homeowners do not have earthquake insurance, which runs to about \$400 a year for

a \$200,000 home, but the industry expects the earthquake to increase demand for such coverage. Damage is thought to total \$20 billion but some estimates go as high as \$30 billion.

Lloyd's of London has escaped almost unscathed, because losses were not high enough to trigger the insurance market's catastrophe reinsurance cover. Insured losses would have to top \$3.5 billion

before Lloyd's cover kicked in. A Lloyd's spokesman said some losses would fall on the market because syndicates provided cover directly to US insurers. "However, we have only been notified for about £20 million of direct losses," he said. There may be more in the pipeline but these are expected to be negligible. The bulk of the losses will be borne by US insurers.

## Business failures at a five-year low

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE number of firms to collapse into receivership and administration fell to its lowest level for five years last month.

Figures collated by Touche Ross, the accountant, show there were only 163 appointments of receivers or administrators last month, a 56 per cent fall on the number reported for January last year. The fall continues the downward trend set during 1993.

Christopher Morris, the senior insolvency partner at Touche Ross, said business failures were on target to fall as low as 2,000 this year, compared with a peak of 3,734 in 1991 and 3,226 last year.

He said: "This would seem to confirm my previously stated opinion that not only is the recession over, but that companies are recovering steadily and cautiously and not being persuaded to overtrade." At

the end of previous recessions, the number of business failures increased as firms tried to expand turnover at an unsustainable high growth rate, sacrificing margins and profit.

Mr Morris said: "Steady and cautious expansion of activities is more likely to result in real growth and prosperity, while overtrading all too often results in the financial collapse of an otherwise viable business."

The Touche figures, taken from an analysis of statutory advertisements, show there were fewer collapses in the West Midlands and the North than in other areas, with only two appointments in each area. The biggest number of failures, 72, occurred in London and the South East, followed by the North West with 25 and Yorkshire and Humberside with 22.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Waste Management on the expansion trail

PRE-TAX profits at Waste Management International, the waste handling company that is controlled by Waste Management Inc of Chicago and has a 20 per cent stake in Wessex Water, climbed 7 per cent to £150.9 million in the year to December 31. Revenues, boosted by acquisitions and organic growth, advanced 15 per cent to £941.4 million. Earnings grew by 14 per cent to 26.5p (23.3p) a share. Acquisition activity continued with 48 acquisitions completed in 12 countries, including 11 in the UK and eight in Germany, where the pace is expected to continue this year. The group also entered the Austrian market through a small acquisition.

Edwin Falkman, chief executive, said: "Our business in Europe has continued to expand, despite the fact that only the UK has had positive economic growth. We expect that this expansion will continue as the economic climate improves. Our market share has increased steadily in a number of countries including the UK, Germany, The Netherlands, France, Denmark and Finland. This has been achieved through both acquisitions and internal growth."

## Electricity rebates

EASTERN Electricity has offered its 3 million customers a further rebate off their winter bills, at a total cost of £50 million. Householders on the standard tariff will have £10 credited to their next quarterly bill and customers on the Economy 7 tariff will receive £16. Those on pre-payment, token or card meters will also receive an additional £4. John Devaney, chief executive, said: "Our customers are continuing to benefit from the full from our ability to manage our business costs effectively. We have put a lot of effort into the way we purchase our power, using our influence as the largest of the regional electricity companies to secure the best possible deals."

## Japan's surplus rises

JAPAN'S current account surplus rose 12 per cent in 1993 in dollar terms to a record \$131.35 billion from \$117.55 billion in the previous year, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday. However, when expressed in yen, the current account surplus fell 2 per cent to ¥14,602 trillion. In 1992, it had jumped 53 per cent to ¥14,902 trillion. The United States, in particular, has expressed frustration over the lack of progress in ongoing trade talks aimed chiefly at creating greater access to Japan's markets. For the month of December alone, the current account surplus rose 9.3 per cent to \$12.57 billion, up from \$11.50 billion a year earlier.

## Sculley quits Spectrum

JOHN Sculley, the former chairman of Apple Computer, has abruptly resigned as chairman and chief executive of Spectrum Information Technologies, the little-known computer company he joined last year. Mr Sculley has filed suit in federal court in New York against Peter Caserta, Spectrum's former chief executive, regarding matters relating to the circumstances under which he was "induced to join Spectrum, to my obvious detriment". Spectrum made no comment on the allegation. Mr Sculley said he had learnt of pending Securities and Exchange Commission enquiries into the company only from recent press reports.

## Mining tenders

PRIVATE mining companies have lodged competing tenders to lease and re-open redundant mines at Wearmouth, Tyne & Wear and Calverton, Nottinghamshire, British Coal said. But none have been submitted for Bentley Colliery, South Yorkshire, or for Rufford Colliery, Nottinghamshire. Of the 28 pits offered for lease and licence since last May, only one, Clapstone, Nottinghamshire, has been handed over to a private group. But talks are continuing over transferring five others back to the private sector: Betws, South Wales; Rossington and Markham Main, Yorkshire; Trentham, Staffordshire, and Coventry, West Midlands.

## News Corp decision

THE News Corporation yesterday announced that holders of News Cayman Ltd 7 1/2 per cent guaranteed sterling exchangeable preference shares due 1999 and holders of News Cayman Investment Ltd 5 1/4 per cent guaranteed guillem exchangeable non-voting preference shares due 1999 are not entitled to Royal Doulton shares. It was announced on January 31, 1994 that legal advice was being taken after a review of Royal Doulton documents. Notices to preference shareholders were published on December 13, 1993 in the Financial Times. News Corp stated: "We apologise for the error which the notices contained and regret any inconvenience which may have been caused."

## Woodchester warning

WOODCHESTER Investments, the Irish finance house, gave warning that it will report sharply lower profits for 1993. Pre-tax earnings for last year, to be announced on February 28, will be about £133 million (£31.4 million), compared with £135.4 million before exceptional costs of about £15 million. Despite the drop in earnings, the dividend will be lifted about 15 per cent. Craig McKinney, Woodchester chairman, said his restructuring plan had the support of Credit Lyonnais, which owns 49 per cent. Woodchester, which has a 30 per cent interest in CLLE, a Credit Lyonnais subsidiary, said it might take over CLLE in some countries.

Target of 100,000 cars a year, mainly for export

## Toyota to double production

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

TOYOTA has started two-shift assembly work to double production at its £800 million plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire. The company introduced a night shift this week which will mean output jumping to 400 cars a day by the middle of the year.

It has taken on 500 extra workers to achieve a target of 100,000 cars a year, with about 75 per cent of them going for export, mainly to Europe. The saloons and hatchbacks — called the Carina E — made at the Burnaston plant are already sent to 17 countries on the Continent. Company executives say that the extra production will help consolidate the company's position in foreign showrooms.

However, the success of the mid-range Carina E is also expected to raise demand for a second model to be made at Burnaston. Toyota managers are already checking details, but it is expected the company will decide soon to make a

smaller hatchback car at Burnaston.

That will make Burnaston a rival for Nissan's plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear. The company was last week named Britain's biggest car exporter sending £1 billion worth of cars overseas for sale.

Burnaston's success is also proving important to British component suppliers now helping to raise the European

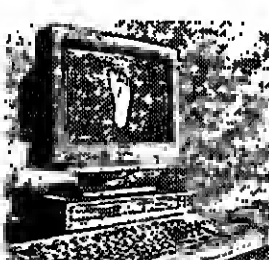
content of Carina E cars to 80 per cent by the year end. The factory will by then be spending £380 million annually on parts and raw materials in Europe.

Yukihisa Hirano, Toyota UK's managing director, said: "This is another major step towards achieving our phase one target of 100,000 cars a year and demonstrates that the high quality of the Carina Es built here has been widely

accepted by our customers throughout Europe."

Shoichiro Toyota, chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation, has been nominated next chairman of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren).

Mr Toyota, 68, will replace Gaisa Hiraiwa at the organisation's general meeting in May. The Keidanren is one of the most powerful business groups in Japan.



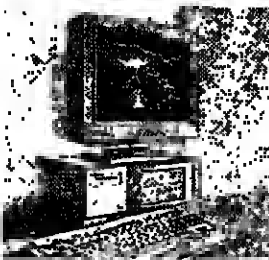
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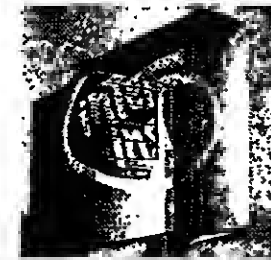
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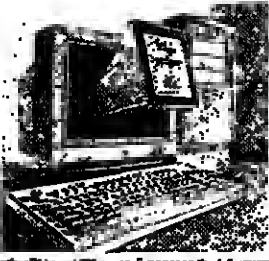
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□ BAe shareholders in the dark but footing the bill □ Granada ready to lift terms □ Markets should adjust, not panic

## Careless talk costs chairmen

□ THAT new era of openness on the Stock Exchange does not seem to have reached British Aerospace. Most of the nation's broadsheet newspapers have reported that John Cahill, BAe's executive chairman, has effectively been ousted by his boardroom colleagues less than two years into a five year contract. Yet BAe has not felt it necessary to make an announcement to the Exchange.

Perhaps BAe's top managers see chairmen as being ten a penny. Unfortunately for shareholders, that is far from true. Even Professor Sir Roland Smith, whom the board had reason to oust in 1991, was due some £500,000 on a contract with his consultancy. Mr Cahill's departure would surely prove much more costly, not least because it appears to be for the benefit of fellow directors rather than shareholders.

The supposed objections to Mr Cahill might have been good reasons for not recruiting him in the first place. But he was carefully chosen after a thorough search, during which it was speculated that one or two possibilities did not wish to work with existing top management, including Dick Evans, the chief executive appointed under Sir Roland. Whatever Mr Cahill's faults, he is an unusually straightforward and honest per-

son. He did not disguise his intentions. When the former BTR chief executive was appointed, it was made clear he would be a hands-on executive, introduce tough BTR-style financial controls and personally vet every BAe business. No surprises there. Indeed, it was surely for his unsentimental skills at cutting costs and raising profit margins, so evident at BTR, that he was chosen to succeed Sir Graham Day, who did not want the role permanently because he felt BAe could not do with a non-executive chairman.

Mr Cahill's past record also showed he was not a good dealmaker, perhaps just because he is a non-nonsense John Fashanu of the business world rather than a George Best. He was not the man to negotiate a subtle deal with Taiwan or spend months in a statey dance with Honda. By contrast, Mr Evans is for ever associated with winning the fabulous Al Yamamah defence contract. Mr Cahill came in because BAe wanted a formidable manager. He reckoned it would take five years to transform BAe. The sale of

Rover, which he envisaged from the start, is but one milestone. Airbus developments and a possible joint defence venture with GEC are to come. Yet BAe also needs constant pressure on costs in a world where cosy defence contracts and aircraft deals will no longer be the norm.

Having seen off Rover's George Simpson and now, it seems, Mr Cahill, BAe's insiders have reassessed themselves. Shareholders may not have had that in mind. If that is the case, the board, and not the shareholders, should pay any compensation for breaching their chairman's contract.

### Television talks about talks

□ YESTERDAY'S market shake-out may have done little to rock the foundations of stock market confidence, but it certainly shook the walls at Granada Group. Gerry Robinson, at Granada, has only until Sunday to capture LWT (Holdings), ideally by an agreed bid, now the takeover clock has been re-

### PENNINGTON



wound. These are far from ideal market conditions in which to underwrite a takeover bid worth not too far short of £1 billion.

As the market closed on Friday, Granada's all-share terms were a penny above LWT's price in the market. By last night, LWT shares were defying gravity and unchanged at 70.2p, but Granada had slipped such that the terms were 18p lower. Hardly surprising, therefore, that there are signs that Mr Robinson has been wrong-footed by the markets. LWT suggests that an offer by Granada made over the weekend for further talks was significantly never followed through by the necessary phone call yesterday morning to set a date. Granada was last night happy

to line up a private chat with LWT over higher terms later this week - but not, apparently, until New York had had a chance to close and London to open at least once again, which suggests that one or two merchant bankers may have had a sleepless night.

To pass the time, the two had yesterday fallen to squabbling again over their respective share of January ITV advertising revenue. LWT's promising figures, showing a 10 per cent rise and put out over the weekend, were somewhat unwisely written off by Granada with the claim that the month had been a good one for all the ITV companies. Possibly so; but all things are relative, and Granada's own revenues fell 8 per cent, the company sheepishly admitted yesterday, although indications are this was probably a temporary blip.

That said, assuming the stock market behaves itself for the next couple of days and he can raise his bid, Mr Robinson's problems could soon be over. Forget the once-trumpeted "white knight". Whatever the posturing so far from their board, the LWT shareholders must in their

hearts have accepted that the kind of prices now on offer for TV companies may not be available for too long, and they might, one day, rue any rejection of an improved price.

With management sitting on 10 per cent of the shares, such logic will also not have been lost on those members of the LWT board who could be days away from being real, as opposed to paper, millionaires. Agreement, on slightly higher terms, may not be too hard to achieve.

### Memories that can prevent a crash

□ LLOYD Benetton, America's Treasury Secretary was wise to point out that economic conditions in 1994 are very different from those ahead of the October 1987 financial crash. There was then a fundamental imbalance in the world economy caused by an unsustainable American boom, generating huge trade and budget deficits that sent the dollar reeling too far for the Federal Reserve to ignore. Today, the main economic im-

balance lies within continental Europe, where interest rates are artificially keeping the recession going. And even that has been eased since last summer's suspension of the ERM.

In America, interest rates are rising because the economy is healthy, not because it is out of control. A penalty may have to be paid in Europe, where the likely rise of the dollar may put a floor under future interest rate cuts. Continental share prices have been sustained by American money chasing higher cash returns and capital gains from falling rates.

The penalty need not be great, however, nor interfere with the real economy. If stock and bond markets merely adjust to the implications of somewhat higher American interest rates, little harm should be done - though the adjustment may be bigger in some frothy Asian markets. The danger lies in share markets struggling off higher interest rates, sustained by confidence in ever-growing company profits. That is the second lesson of 1987. Having corrected down, share prices, especially in America, went charging ahead again as if nothing had happened. That creates the climate for a crash. If that lesson is remembered and ambitions scaled down, a market with the froth creamed off could still be prove healthy.

## BASF to pay £60m for ICI plastics business

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BASF of Germany is buying ICI's European polypropylene business. The £60 million deal doubles BASF's share of the European polypropylene market to about 10 per cent, making it second only to an alliance between Shell and Himont, of Italy.

The disposal shows the gathering pace of ICI's restructuring away from highly cyclical heavy chemicals after the hiving-off of Zeneca, its pharmaceuticals arm, last June.

Further sales, particularly of bulk petrochemicals and chlor-alkali activities, are expected as a modest recovery gets under way in the North American and UK chemical industries. Peter Clark, chemicals analyst at Goldman Sachs, said: "ICI will be doing a lot more deals like this."

Disposals of businesses with poor profitability or losses are expected to help ICI achieve a strong profits recovery in 1994. This month, Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, is set to reveal profits of about £296 million for 1993, on turnover, minus the drugs arm, of about £3.5 billion.

For the current year, Goldman Sachs forecasts a profit of £415 million, on sales of £9 billion. Part of the improvement will come from eliminating losses from polypropylene, which is believed to have lost £10 million last year and £20 million in 1992. Yesterday's deal was planned as part of an asset swap between BASF and ICI which was unveiled in January 1993. ICI later abandoned plans to buy BASF's German acrylics operation, apparently because of concerns about environmental clean-up liabilities. However, BASF has agreed to take on ICI's polypropylene plant at Wilton, Teesside, em-

ploying 340 people, as well as a plant at Rozenburg, The Netherlands, employing another 120. In total, these plants produce 300,000 tonnes of polypropylene a year.

The acquisition confirms the determination of BASF - which vies with Hoechst and Bayer for the title of world chemicals leader - to become a growing force in the UK. ICI has been concentrating its efforts on building up four main business areas: paints, explosives, whiteners and selected bulk chemicals.

Tempus, page 27

### Pentos seeks to cool row

BILL McGrath, the new chief executive of Pentos, the struggling Dillons to Ryman retail chain, distanced himself yesterday from revelations in a letter that has angered Pentos landlords by asking them to lower rents and accept extended payments.

A company spokesman said Mr McGrath had not seen the letter, written by Frank Brazier, chief executive of the Pentos retailing division, before it was sent. However, the spokesman said that the board was looking to reduce the company's hefty rent bill.

Pentos is locked into deals made during the 1980s rental boom.

Tempus, page 27

## GrandMet deputy sets up KKR-backed buyout group

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

IAN Martin, deputy chairman of Grand Metropolitan, who lost out to George Bull in the battle for the chief executive's job last year, has resigned from the group to set up a new specialist buyout company.

Glenisla Group, the new venture, is backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR), the US investment group famed for its 1980s corporate raids. Mr Martin, 58, said his task was to find undervalued businesses in western Europe which KKR could acquire.

He is seeking deals of about £300 million, which are likely to be financed from KKR's \$2 billion fund in America. KKR has been trying to find a deal

in Europe for several years but has so far failed. The venture with Mr Martin marks an attempt to establish a more formal base in the region.

Mr Martin refused to reveal his financial package but it is believed he is being paid a salary by KKR on top of any equity stake he is given in acquired companies. He will also continue to receive his £500,000 salary from GrandMet for advisory services.

He is not the first GrandMet director to enter the lucrative world of buyouts. Last May, Sir Allen Sheppard, his former boss, led a £300 million management buy-in of BP's consumer products arm.



Martin: GrandMet salary

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# Greenspan calls the turn on American interest rates

The markets reacted fiercely to the Fed's decision to raise interest rates, but the move was widely applauded, says Wolfgang Münchau

Everyone knew it, although no one had been told officially. President Clinton had expected it. Lloyd Bentsen, the Treasury Secretary, has been forecasting it since January, and Laura Tyson, the President's chief economist, even welcomed it. Friday's rise in interest rates took nobody by surprise in Washington. Yet in New York, the reaction in financial markets was one of near panic, as the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 96.24 points.

The further away the message from the Federal Reserve Board travelled, the more distorted it became. In Europe, concerns have been raised whether this move by the Fed will push up European interest rates, and whether it will plunge the world into a new recession, before it had time to recover from the previous one.

It will not. It does signal, however, that America is further ahead in the economic cycle than the rest of the world. More generally, it shows that interest rates cannot stay at par with the rate of inflation for an indefinite period of time. The reaction in financial markets to the rise in the federal funds rate from 3 per cent to 3.25 per cent was fierce because it takes a somewhat long-term memory — at least by the standards of financial markets — to recall what it was like when interest rates went up last time. This was five years ago, George Bush had been president for only one month.

The Fed's decision on Friday was met with widespread applause, including from the Clinton White House. The open market committee simply considers the economy is in strong enough a position to weather a return to what is generally considered a "neutral" level of interest rates, after the abnormally low rates during the last few years of anemic economic recovery.

Mr Bentsen called the Fed's decision "a pre-emptive strike" against inflation. In the words of William McChesney Martin, a former Fed governor, it was a move "to take away the punch bowl just as the party gets going". But that is an oversimplification. Some Wall Street economists predict 4 per cent by the year-end — but they will still be low by America's own historic standards and certainly when compared internationally. With inflationary expectations of about 3 per cent, real short interest rates would then be only 1 per cent, which is still much lower than anywhere in Europe. They had been zero since the end of 1992.

Earlier last week, Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, had given a strong hint in front of Congress's joint economic committee that a rise in interest rates was on the cards. There was only a single factor that might have caused a delay. Friday's employment report, of which the Fed received customary advance notice, suggested a smaller than expected fall in unemployment, because of the harsh winter weather. Wall Street took this as a sign that the dreaded decision would happen on another day.

When the Fed's open market committee reached its decision on Friday morning, the vote was unanimous. Or



Alan Greenspan signals the US is ahead in economic cycle

rather, it was 10-0, with two members absent. One of them was Wayne Angell, a fearless inflation hawk who had voted to raise interest rates at the previous open market committee meeting, but ended up in a 2-10 minority. Mr Angell will retire from the Fed this week.

The second absentee was David Mullins, who announced his resignation as the Fed's deputy chairman last week. Although no inflation hawk, Mr Mullins was known to have favoured a half-point percentage rise, but more for technical reasons. He argued that a half-point rise would have the advantage of being considered a complete correction, whereas a quarter-point might be seen as only the first in a series of increases.

For most Americans, whether private citizens or businessmen, the quarter-point rise in the federal funds rate will have little, if any, impact on their lives. The prime rate, which determines the rates banks charge for consumer or business loans, remains unchanged at 6 per cent. The White House yesterday expressed some con-

cern that banks may be unusually sensitive to interest rate changes, because as part of the attempt to escape from the financial squeeze at the end of the 1980s, they increased their holding of long-term government paper from an average of 11 per cent to 23 per cent, but also increased their holdings in derivatives. Thus the profitability of banks may come under pressure, which would cut the banks' scope to simply absorb the rise in the federal funds rate through lower profit margins.

The rate that matters to most private citizens — and thus to politicians — is the long-term interest rate, equivalent to the yield on the 30-year treasury bonds, which indirectly determines the cost of mortgages, currently about 7 per cent. During the market turbulence on Friday, the long bond yield behaved well, rising by only 0.14 per cent to 6.35 per cent, which is less than the rise in the federal funds rate. If inflation remains subdued — a prospect that is not unrealistic — several analysts predict that the yield may drop again below 6 per cent relatively soon. The

equities markets, meanwhile, took fright at the prospect of a liquidity squeeze, and felt that they had already discounted the economic recovery to a large extent. The perception may have been new, but the underlying situation had been the same all along.

Washington, by contrast, reacted with almost total equanimity to the decision, and this even applies to Congress, where criticism of the Fed has a long and proud tradition. An exception was Senator Paul Sarbanes from Maryland, who likened the decision to a bombing raid on a farmhouse "because you think that the villain inflation is inside". When, in reality, the victim is "a happy family appreciating the restoration of economic growth".

But overall, Congressional leaders were pleased that Mr Greenspan made his decision publicly — a factor that created almost as much interest as the decision itself — ostensibly "to avoid any misunderstanding". Normally, the Fed would only "signal" its decision through its own financial market operations.

This is where the real pre-emptive strike comes in. It has nothing to do with inflation but with politics. Mr Greenspan is fending off a motion by Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House banking committee, who aims to make the Fed more accountable by forcing it to release the minutes of its open market committee meeting immediately, rather than several weeks later. By complying voluntarily, Mr Greenspan has taken away some of the pressure.

The Fed is currently caught in a balancing act to keep the Democrats in the White House and Congress happy, while pursuing a responsible monetary policy. The Fed itself is one of the last bastions of Republican power in Washington, but this is about to change. The departure of Mr Mullins and Mr Angell will allow Mr Clinton to put his own stamp on the seven-member Fed (the remaining five members of the open market committee are drawn on a rotating basis from the regional central banks). Mr Greenspan's own term will end in two years, but at the age of 70, he will not be expected to seek another term.

Judging by how reluctant the conservatives have been to raise interest rates, one can only assume that this reluctance will be even stronger under a politically mixed board. Even today, the Administration has no reason to be discontented with the Fed. Mr Bentsen said on Sunday that the "biggest controversy that I have with the chairman of the Federal Reserve was expressed yesterday on the tennis courts".

The two have regular breakfasts together, as they did on the fateful Friday morning, although Mr Bentsen was polite enough not to mention — let alone ask about — interest rates. Mr Clinton and the Fed's chairman also get on splendidly, especially since Mr Greenspan gave his full support to Mr Clinton's economic plan last year, causing bitterness among Republicans.

Far more important than an inevitable rise in short-term interest rates, both for America and the rest of the world, was yesterday's budget, and the good news on the forecast 1995 deficit of \$176 billion, which is more than \$100 billion less than had been forecast before Mr Clinton took office.

The return to fiscal prudence, combined with a responsible and a vigilant monetary policy, remain the best guarantors for low inflation and, ultimately, for low interest rates.

## TEMPUS

### Shares in 'toon town

LIKE cartoon characters, bull markets carry on running over the edge of the cliff and only fall when they look down and realise there is nothing supporting them any longer. By the end of this week, yesterday's 56.3 point fall in the FT-SE 100 index may well be regarded as additional justification for the bull market. The day of judgment arrived, in the form of a rise in American interest rates, but the financial world did not fall apart. Instead, the event merely trimmed the FT-SE by 1.6 per cent, taking it back to where it stood on January 17. If the market can take such bad news almost in its stride, the bulls will reason, where else can share prices go but up?

The rise in American interest rates may well have some immediate benefits for British companies and their earnings, since any rise in the dollar and dollar-related currencies will

provide additional export opportunities and a defence against imports. It will also increase the sterling value of profits from US subsidiaries. This will hearten investors who have seen share prices rise so high and now need to see some improvement in earnings.

No matter what gloss or whitewash the broking houses try to use in their determination to push the market ever higher, the fact remains that the financial world has passed the low point in the interest rate cycle. Friday's increase in the Federal Funds Rate is unlikely to be the last, since real interest rates in America are still near zero. Rising rates in America make it hard for Kenneth Clarke to reduce the base rate further. The pressure on the market will rise slowly and one day, perhaps this summer, it might suddenly realise how far above the ground it is.

#### Dalgety

GIVEN the amount of corporate activity at Dalgety recently, including five acquisitions in the past six months, shareholders could have been forgiven for expecting something more than flat half-year profits and a 7 per cent fall in earnings per share. That is probably why the group felt obliged to soften their disappointment with a 0.15p increase in the dividend.

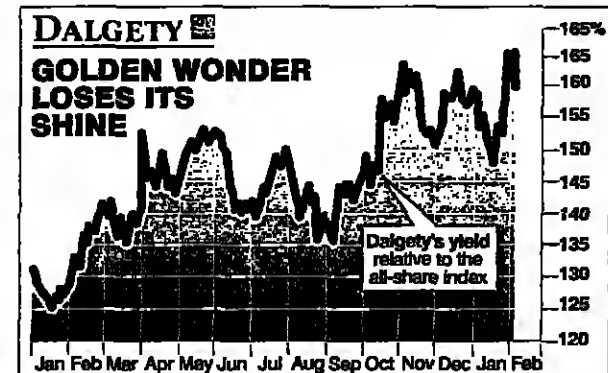
Dalgety is the latest food manufacturer to be caught up in the supermarket price battle, and the resulting margin pressure in its food business has been exacerbated by a 10 per cent fall in Golden Wonder Pot Noodle volumes, previously a bedrock of group profitability.

Wisely, Dalgety has been using its debt facilities to lessen its dependence on

multiple retailer sales, which still account for a quarter of group profits. Four of last year's acquisitions were in food ingredients or agribusiness, where profit margins are not exposed to the competitive jostlings of a few major customers.

When these acquisitions contribute fully in the current half year they should

offset the pressure in the food division. In addition, if a relaunch of Pot Noodle is successful it will reverse the pre-Christmas decline in volumes. Altogether this could push profits to £128 million for the year to June 30, a useful 14 per cent increase. In the meantime, the shares are well supported by a 5.6 per cent yield.



#### ICI

THE amount of time it has taken ICI to conclude the sale of its polypropylene interests to BASF suggests the reorganisation of the group will be neither easy nor quick. The two companies needed 13 months to close a deal worth just £60 million, even though the other half of the transaction — ICI's acquisition of BASF's acrylics operations — fell apart completely last summer. By contrast BMW managed to negotiate the £800 million acquisition of Rover in less than ten days.

The disposal was never going to be easy. ICI's polypropylene operations were part of its large complexes at Wilton, on Teeside, and Rozenburg, in The Netherlands, so there were inevitable complications over title. Far from being disheartened by such delays, ICI is determined to press ahead with

other asset swaps. The polypropylene firms business and the 50 per cent stake in European Vinyls Corporation are likely to be the next candidates as ICI tries to expand in areas like acrylics, which are less exposed to cyclical price fluctuations. The disposal of loss-makers may flatten the profit and account in the short-term, but ICI's next asset swap really should include an acquisition. Otherwise it is shrinking its asset base and leaving itself with fewer opportunities to benefit from any recovery in industrial activity.

#### Pentos

DILLONS' demand for easy credit terms on its shop rents show that the pips are really squeaking in Pentos' cash flow, but the move will not sit easily with its landlords. For years, Pentos dropped up its profit and loss account with

the cash bonuses that property companies offered anyone who would rent their shop sites at premium rates. That cash has since been spent, but it will take a lot to convince the property companies to write it off to experience.

Bill McGrath, Pentos' new chief executive, needs an easy ride from his landlords to persuade the banks and shareholders to be equally forgiving. The company is poised to call a two-for-one rights issue at 25p next month to raise up to £20 million. This will shore up the balance sheet but will not restore it, since write-offs in the 1993 accounts could total £50 million and nearly obliterate shareholders' funds. Pentos' debts reached £86 million before Christmas, putting gearing at 200 per cent and giving Mr McGrath little room for manoeuvre in any of his negotiations. A great deal of indulgence is needed from all parties to allow this company to survive.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Blind date broker style

IT WAS the Mother-of-all-Blind-Dates. Thirty eligible City and professional men booked for dinner into 30 different restaurants with 30 unknown female counterparts. And in homage to television's "Love, Lora, Lora" Cilla, all table reservations on Saturday night were in the names... Mr and Ms Black. In further romantic style, the Cupid behind the impressive logistics of kindling Square Mile relationships — a leading female stockbroker — requested anonymity yesterday after "a very successful and funny evening". When she put aside dividend yields to play matchmaker, stockbrokers, accountants, surveyors, business people (and four showjumpers) queued up for the chance of meeting Mr/Ms Right. Speaking from her eyrie near Broadgate, the organiser said: "I have many single friends and it can be hard to meet people in the City. Initially, when I suggested it, people were horrified, but soon loads of people were enthusiastic. I think the guys began wondering about how few girls they met in everyday working life. It's been a riot." The contestants (sorry, participants) met in two pubs in trendy Notting Hill, west London, females in

the Slug and Lettuce, and men in the Beach Blanket Babylon. Tantalising envelopes were handed out containing the secret restaurant assignments. At the end of the evening, the couples, no longer strangers in the night, joined up to party at a third Will pub, The Walrus and Carpenter. And has romance flowered from the City's equivalent of Operation Desert Storm? "I think some will," said Ms Cupid. "I also made sure there were no six foot women paired with four foot men."

**SPOTTED under Items for Sale:** Rover Owners! Get your retaliation in first. My Other Rover is a BMW.

### Empty seat

THERE was an empty seat on the Sunday flight to Accra — for the honourable reason that Smith New Court would not sign a two-page "condition of travel" document that had been thrust under the noses of the party of mining analysts invited to visit the Lomrhoman- managed Ashanti gold mine before next month's London float. Brokers James Capel and Morgan Stanley required analysts to sign an undertaking that if analysts were to issue circulars to their clients then their material had to be published by Friday — alternatively they had to wait until 40 days after the flotation —



West: joining the partners

and that all copy was to be vetted by Capel/Morgan before publication. As if that is not unsettling enough, at the weekend a "Save Ashanti Goldfields Campaign" popped up in Ghana that seeks to challenge the Ghanaian government's planned sale of 25 per cent of Ashanti, which triggers the London float. How not to win friends, and influence people.

### Breaking ranks

CAZENOVE, that blue-blooded stockbroker founded in 1823, and currently sporting 56 partners (all male) on its letterhead, is to have a female part-

ner among its hallowed ranks after all these years. Anne West, 43, who has been with Cazenove for five years, has spent ten years in the Far East, and today manages £400 million of funds on the Far Eastern desk, joins the partners' ranks, along with six new chaps, on May 1. Retiring joint senior partner, John Kemp-Welch, will not tell me if there are any special quirks at Cazenove that a woman partner might find odd, adding "there has never been a reason why the firm should not have had a woman partner".

**AN ADVERTISING slogan for Glisdom, a plastics product used under filing cabinets and hefty sofas to help them glide across the floor describes the items as "probably the best little mover since Michael Jackson".**

### Out in the cold

FEBRUARY has not, so far, been a good month for Sophie Hull. Last week, she was made redundant from her job heading corporate communications at Gartmore, almost exactly a year after she left Hill Samuel. Sophie, who had been at Gartmore five months, had helped steer the company through a successful flotation despite the FT-SE falling 60 points within hours of the price of shares in the invest-

ment group being fixed. The issue was, in the event, oversubscribed. Sophie is back in the market again, but will have plenty of time to organise a wonderful first anniversary celebration for her husband John Maher. The couple married on February 27.

### Strap hanging

WHATEVER next? A commuter who injured himself while travelling on a Tube train when the strap he was holding on to broke, has been accused of negligence. London Underground contends that the unfortunate passenger is to blame for his injuries, either because he did not take a seat, or because he did not grab a metal bar, or because he was pulled on the strap with too much force. So if you are reading this on an Underground train and you are (a) standing up, or (b) holding on to a strap with too much force — shame on you!

### Down Jones

THE Press Association spared nothing to get into stock market crash mode yesterday. In a report headed "Panic selling wipes £22 billion off shares prices", it renamed Wall Street's bellwether the "Down Jones" index.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## MARSH & MCLENNAN COMPANIES

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1993 (Unaudited)

	\$ million (except per share figures)	
	1993	1992
Total Revenues	\$3,163.4	\$2,937.0
Total Expenses	2,570.6	2,396.0
Operating Income	592.8	541.0
Income Before Income Taxes	558.6	519.3
Income	332.4	303.8*
Income Per Share	\$4.52	\$4.21*
Dividends Paid Per Share	\$2.70	\$2.65

\*After applying the cumulative effect of required changes in accounting principles 1992 net income and earnings per share were \$263.7 million and \$3.65, respectively.

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## Earlier losses halved

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 31. Dealings on February 11. Settlement day February 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
534	245	Abn-Amro	32	-11	11.8
535	130	Abn-Amro	130	-11	11.8
536	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
537	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
538	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
539	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
540	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
541	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
542	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
543	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
544	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
545	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
546	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
547	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
548	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
549	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8
550	271	Abn-Amro	271	-11	11.8

## DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
102	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
103	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
104	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
105	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
106	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
107	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
108	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
109	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
110	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
111	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
112	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
113	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
114	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
115	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
116	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
117	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
118	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
119	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0
120	35	Alcon	35	-1	1.0

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
250	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
251	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
252	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
253	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
254	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
255	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
256	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
257	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
258	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
259	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0
260	140	Amersbach	140	-1	1.0

## FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
300	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
301	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
302	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
303	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
304	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
305	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
306	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
307	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
308	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
309	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0
310	150	Amersbach	150	-1	1.0

## HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
320	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
321	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
322	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
323	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
324	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
325	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
326	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
327	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
328	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
329	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0
330	160	Amersbach	160	-1	1.0

## INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
340	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
341	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
342	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
343	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
344	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
345	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
346	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
347	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
348	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
349	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0
350	170	Amersbach	170	-1	1.0

## LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
360	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
361	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
362	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
363	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
364	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
365	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
366	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
367	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
368	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
369	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0
370	180	Amersbach	180	-1	1.0

## MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
380	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
381	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
382	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
383	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
384	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
385	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
386	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
387	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
388	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
389	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0
390	190	Amersbach	190	-1	1.0

## BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
400	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
401	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
402	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
403	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
404	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
405	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
406	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
407	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
408	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
409	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0
410	200	Amersbach	200	-1	1.0

## BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
420	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
421	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
422	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
423	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
424	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
425	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
426	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
427	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
428	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
429	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0
430	210	Amersbach	210	-1	1.0

## ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
440	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
441	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
442	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
443	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
444	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
445	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
446	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
447	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
448	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
449	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0
450	220	Amersbach	220	-1	1.0

## HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
460	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
461	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
462	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
463	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
464	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
465	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
466	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
467	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
468	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
469	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0
470	230	Amersbach	230	-1	1.0

## INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
480	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
481	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
482	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
483	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
484	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
485	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
486	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
487	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
488	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
489	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0
490	240	Amersbach	240	-1	1.0

## LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
500	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
501	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
502	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
503	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
504	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
505	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
506	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
507	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
508	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
509	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0
510	250	Amersbach	250	-1	1.0

## MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
520	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
521	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
522	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
523	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
524	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
525	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
526	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
527	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
528	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
529	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0
530	260	Amersbach	260	-1	1.0

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	P/E
540	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
541	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
542	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
543	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
544	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
545	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
546	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
547	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
548	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
549	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0
550	270	Amersbach	270	-1	1.0

## BUSINESS SERVICES

463	ADT	705	-15		
464	Adams & Harvey	270	-2	130	4.4
465	Adco	100	0	10	1.0
466	African Lakes	100	0	20	8.3
467	Africa World	139A	0	10	1.0
468	AI	147	-5	10	1.0
469	AIET Int	147	-5	10	1.0
470	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
471	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
472	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
473	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
474	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
475	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
476	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
477	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
478	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
479	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
480	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
481	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
482	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
483	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
484	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
485	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
486	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
487	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
488	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
489	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
490	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
491	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
492	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
493	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
494	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
495	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
496	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
497	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
498	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
499	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0
500	AIM	147	-5	10	1.0



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Successful City firm with small multi-disciplinary employee benefits group seeks two lawyers, ideally 3.5 years qualified. Opportunity to handle other specialist employee benefits or pensions. Alternatively, a measure of both. The firm has a positive and creative attitude to practice development in this area which is not perceived as simply a support department. Likely to be an area of significant growth, with need for additional partners in the medium term. (Ref.2920)

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### COMPETITIVE

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Successful and high culture professional firm with expanding London office staffed by top City solicitors seeks heavyweight corporate finance partner to lead existing team. Extensive London client portfolio will provide ample workload. Personal client connections will be required to supplement this. Dynamic leadership skills essential. (Ref.1454)

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6-8 year qualified City solicitors sought for key group advising large portfolio of leading UK and US banking institutions on the development of new products in the derivatives markets and regulatory issues. Directly relevant experience not a pre-requisite but sound academic credentials and a minimum of six months spent in a banking role as a top twenty City firm are vital. A demonstrable interest in financial matters is also a major advantage. (Ref.2497)

### INT. IN-HOUSE

Progressive and profitable international banking institution seeks academically strong lawyer with 2-4 years' capital markets experience for heavily international role, involving substantial travel to Asia and the Americas and dealing closely with key clients. Package offered will include normal banking benefits, car and bonus schemes. (Ref.2460)

### BUDAPEST

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### BANKING PACKAGE

Progressive and profitable international banking institution seeks academically strong lawyer with 2-4 years' capital markets experience for heavily international role, involving substantial travel to Asia and the Americas and dealing closely with key clients. Package offered will include normal banking benefits, car and bonus schemes. (Ref.2460)

### COMPETITIVE

Successful City firm with small multi-disciplinary employee benefits group seeks two lawyers, ideally 3.5 years qualified. Opportunity to handle other specialist employee benefits or pensions. Alternatively, a measure of both. The firm has a positive and creative attitude to practice development in this area which is not perceived as simply a support department. Likely to be an area of significant growth, with need for additional partners in the medium term. (Ref.2920)

### COMPETITIVE

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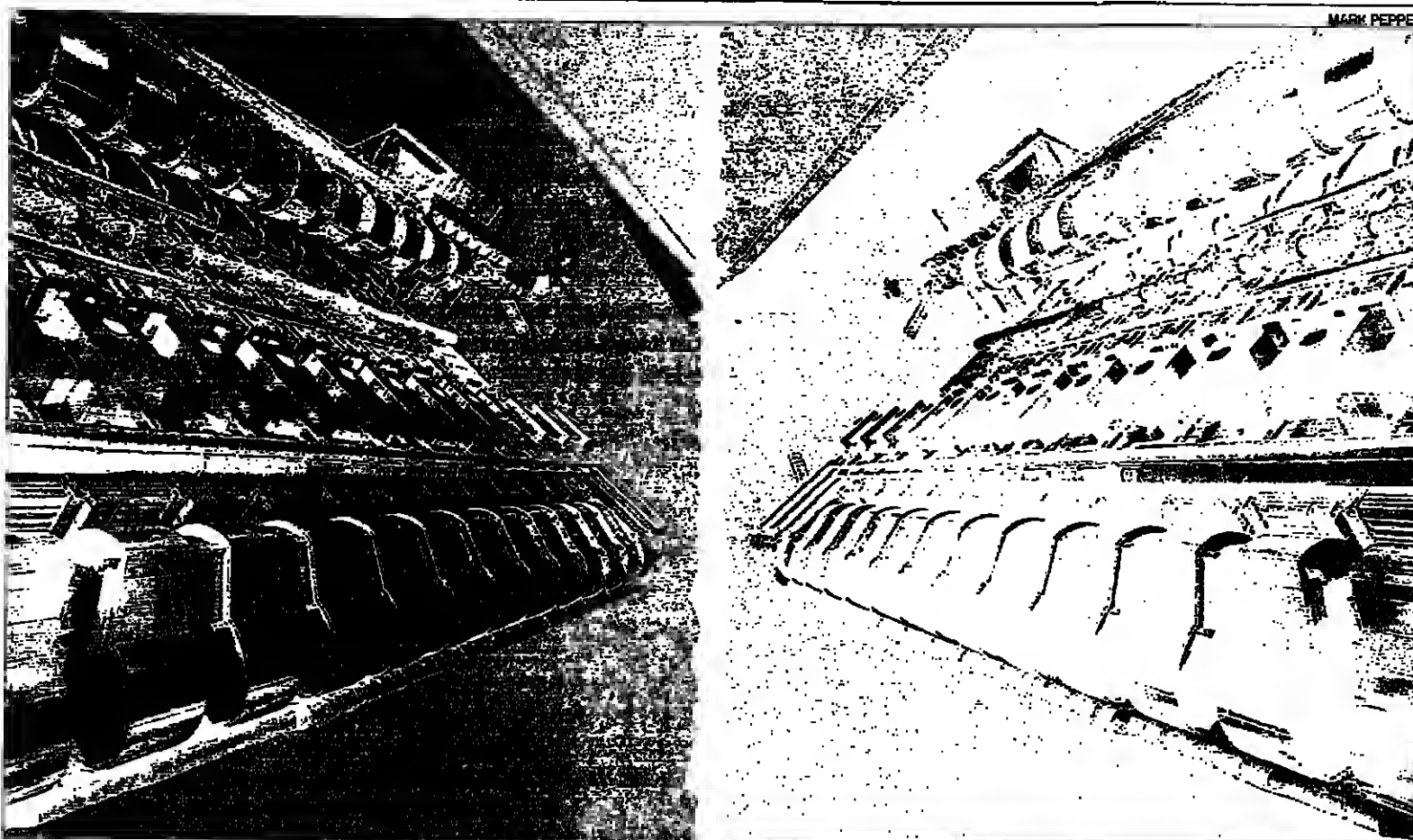
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## LAW

● AWARDS WINNER 35  
● LAW REPORT 36



Negative predicament: Richard Rogers's Lloyd's building houses a community divided as Names threaten to sue agents over losses of £5 billion

## The Catch-22 at Lloyd's

If Names reject a £1 billion offer they face paying legal costs and their own compensation, David Conn says

Embattled members of Lloyd's must decide by next Monday whether to continue with fierce litigation for their past and future losses, or accept £900 million being offered as a blanket settlement of all their claims. If, as expected, the members (Names) reject the deal, Lloyd's litigation is likely to rumble on for years.

There are 31 action groups, representing 17,000 Names, seeking to recover enormous debts from allegedly negligent agents and underwriters. The largest case ever heard in an English court, by Names formerly financing syndicates run by the Gooda Walker managing agency, will start on April 26.

The writ, on behalf of 3,067 Names, claims negligence, breach of contract and breach of duty by 71 defendants, allegedly causing losses estimated at £718 million. Criminal proceedings are also possible, the Serious Fraud Office is, according to a spokesman, "looking into transactions undertaken by syndicates formerly managed by Gooda Walker."

Sixty-nine of the defendants are "members' agents". Names' representatives in the Lloyd's market, who have sought to escape liability, claiming they cannot be responsible for negligence by managing agents. This argument was rejected by the Court of Appeal at a hearing on preliminary issues in December last year.

The members' agents have petitioned the House of Lords in an attempt to have a further appeal heard, while the case

against them edges nearer to trial. The sweep of litigation and the intricacies of the 100-page settlement offer have recently taken the headlines away from the personal nature of the Lloyd's debacle. Total losses at Lloyd's from 1988 to 1990 were more than £5 billion. At the time the market was entirely financed by individuals, who were, in the language of Lloyd's, liable for the losses, "to their last collar stud".

For many of them, unlimited liability represented nothing more than a somewhat quaint tradition. "It seemed totally theoretical," says Michael Deeny, chairman of Gooda Walker Action Group. "Nobody until the late 1980s had ever been bankrupted or wiped out by Lloyd's." In retrospect, the phrase is powerfully descriptive. Membership of Lloyd's has left many Names destitute or bankrupt, with further losses from "open" years yet to come.

People have suffered mental breakdowns, alcoholism and there have been an estimated seven suicides by Names facing heavy demands from Lloyd's. Two of the suicides were members of the Lime Street Action Group, whose 500 Names underwrote business on several of the high loss-making syndicates, resulting in personal losses estimated at an average of £2 million each.

"We are not claiming that the members' agents were dishonest," says Mr Deeny,

"but that they were negligent and incompetent. We are confident of victory." Mr Deeny speaks highly of Wilde Sapte, the group's solicitors. "The litigation is running ahead of schedule and under budget," he says.

Philip Rocher, the partner leading the team at Wilde Sapte, is also optimistic about winning the case, but is more concerned about whether the agents will be able to afford the damages, a further twist to the Lloyd's saga.

The money to pay such a huge sum will largely come out of "errors and omissions" (E&O) insurance policies, taken out by the agencies to cover claims by members. Much of the cover was taken out at Lloyd's itself, and so will still be borne by individual Names. "Gooda Walker did a lot of E&O insurance itself," Rocher says, "so the losses could bite the same Names."

Robert Hiscox, Lloyd's deputy chairman, believes this potentially vicious circle is a reason for accepting the settlement offer. "This litigation is an attempt by some Names to spread the loss on to a lot of Names," he comments. "Anybody who thinks they will get a better offer is wrong."

Andrew Pincott, senior partner at Elborne Mitchell, leading an 18-strong defence team, believes that the Names should accept the offer. "I've heard the total figure bandied around of £100 million for

Lloyd's-related litigation if the settlement is rejected, and that wouldn't surprise me."

Costs are also being run up in a dogged rearguard action in which two representative Names, John Clemenson and Gian Carlo Mason, are defending Lloyd's claims for payment.

The Names are arguing that Lloyd's itself failed to regulate the market properly, a breach of an implied contractual duty of care. However, this argument, together with a defence that the market was anti-competitive, in breach of Article 85 of the Treaty on European Union, failed before Mr Justice Saville in the High Court on December 16. Richard Slowe of S.J. Berwin, representing Mr Clemenson, says the judgment will certainly be appealed.

Lloyd's is not being sued itself. Under the 1982 Lloyd's Act, it enjoys immunity from legal action except in certain narrow circumstances, a statutory protection described in a House of Lords debate last year as "a privilege unequalled in the world of commerce".

The very existence of Lloyd's own Act, said the Earl of Harrowby, was "a privilege, which it abused". However, despite widespread condemnation of the market's expansion in the 1980s, and of its permissive approach to insurance methods, there is no new legislation.

Extensive changes have since been made to the mar-

ket. Ms Kingsmill, who has joined the Rainbow Consortium bid for the National Lottery, says that a year with Clyde & Co was "long enough. I was invited to do this and it was an exciting opportunity."

### Fraud by fax

FAXES have been winging their way from Nigerians claiming to represent firms of solicitors and bringing news of sizeable legacies from Nigerian benefactors.

Several charities have recently received such letters, promising a cheque in exchange for payment of £5,000 or £6,000 in Nigerian "taxes". The scam almost had the charities parting with substantial sums, but the fraud was revealed when Calod, the Roman Catholic charity, checked the source of a fax promising £150,000.

The charities involved have been a little more on the ball than companies that promptly disclosed details of bank accounts (and later found them empty) when the British small business sector was hit by a similar fraud a couple of years ago.

## Study exposes guilty secrets of lawyers

Solicitors and barristers are regularly failing defendants by providing a badly-organised and poor-quality service, according to a study to be published shortly. The report, Standing Accused, by Professor Michael McConville, of Warwick University, and Lee Bridges, of the Public Law Project, highlights how failures by defence lawyers have resulted in recent miscarriages of justice.

Researchers studied 48 law firms throughout England over three years from 1988. They were given access to solicitors' files, attended interview sessions with suspects at police stations and accompanied solicitors and their staff to conferences with counsel.

The results indicate that throughout the defence process firms routinely delegate work to non-solicitor staff, including clerks and in some cases secretaries.

In most of the firms, work was organised so that specific tasks were carried out by these clerks, regardless of the nature of the case. It notes that "the financial pressures on legal aid lawyers are greater than those on commercial lawyers" but adds that criminal defence practices are increasingly organised to maximise their profits.

Lee Bridges says: "A case passes through different hands at each 'moment' of the system — at the police station, at office interviews, at trial and remand hearings, at trial and sentence." The clerk or lawyer given the case is often unfamiliar with the evidence and has never met the defendant.

The report notes that "with occasional outstanding exceptions, the average solicitor is little involved in preparing cases for the Crown Court and what work is done is often too little, too late."

Legal aid regulations, which provide solicitors with more money for court appearances than the preparation of cases or attending on counsel at the Crown Court,

Researchers have gained a damning insight, says Sean Webster

are blamed for these deficiencies. The study says that in one firm surveyed "aggressive expansionism" produced a situation in which secretaries were relied upon to service Crown Court work, with older secretaries delegating work to juniors.

In another firm, a friend of a secretary and the parents of solicitors were from time to time used to attend Crown Court. The researchers themselves were actually asked by firms to undertake legal work on Crown Court cases on several occasions. Also, staff were used who did not understand what was happening in the trial, who could not even distinguish between the various courtroom participants and who did not take a coherent note or, in some cases, a note of any kind. The researchers were asked for advice as to what should be done and were asked to identify clients and counsel.

In those firms which had the greatest market share in criminal work, "overbooking" of cases and overloading of work are described as occupational hazards which non-qualified staff are forced to struggle with daily.

The defence is also criticised for merely reacting to the prosecution case rather than gathering evidence of their own to support the defence case. In many cases they wait several weeks until the prosecution give their advance disclosure. Mr Bridges says that at this stage the trail leading to evidence has often grown cold. A common example is the difficulty of tracing defence witnesses when this is left to the last minute.

Criminal defence work has grown enormously over the past two decades. The amount in grants for legal aid work in magistrates' courts has increased from £16.9 million in 1970 (at 1990 prices) to £169 million 20 years later. However, firms handling this work remain small and undercapitalised.

Mr Bridges accuses the Law Society of failing to give the profession sufficient guidance on the handling of defence work. A guide to criminal defence work in the magistrates' courts produced by the society last year is described by Mr Bridges as being much too little, much too late. The study also found that counsel is routinely changed and briefs delivered late. In several instances being put into the hands of the barrister on the day of the hearing itself.

Barristers are accused of failing to test the evidence carefully, in court and in conferences in chambers. Instead, the report says, these meetings are used to extract a guilty plea from the defendant, not to consider his wishes.

Professor McConville says that some barristers regard a guilty plea as a victory, as it is often accompanied by a reduction in sentence. One experienced clerk questioned in the study commented: "This counsel is OK. Some of them are so-and-so's, trying to force people to plead guilty. That's why I always attend." In another case a barrister encouraged a defendant to plead guilty when he knew not one of the prosecution witnesses had turned up for the trial.

Professor McConville suggests that new autonomous community law centres should be created to handle mainstream criminal cases. These centres would organise duty coverage for police stations and make available specialist investigatory skills and expertise for the whole of the defence community.

● The author writes for Solicitors Journal.

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## Silent dissent

THE climbdowns last week by the Home Secretary and Lord Chancellor are spurring the various critics of current Government law and order measures to renewed lobbying to secure further changes to both the Criminal Justice Bill and the Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill.

On the first, the Bar and Law Society are gearing up for a second offensive on the right to silence. Although hopes are rising that the Lord Chief Justice may have won through on clause 28 (requiring judges to order into the witness box defendants who stay silent), there is concern that publicity over this aspect is obscuring the other provisions allowing adverse comment on a defendant's refusal to respond to police questioning.

Peers likely to line up to oppose the measures include Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, the former Bar chairman, and Lord Runciman, Royal Commission on Criminal Jus-

tice chairman. All that they now need is a former Home Secretary.

### Courting trouble

IN America, a retired Indiana school teacher has been held liable to pay \$100,000 (about £67,000) towards his daughter's support, even though the mother entered a contract saying that she would never make any claim. The US Court of Appeal held that it was against public policy to allow the mother to contract away her rights. This would be the case even if the father was acting as a "sperm bank".

### Children appeal

TWO test cases involving abused children are being closely followed by social workers and doctors who expect the cases to establish new guidelines on the liabilities of childcare professionals. In the first, five children are taking

Bedfordshire County Council to court for failing to act quickly enough in taking them into care. The case was struck out by the High Court in November but the Official Solicitor is taking it to appeal.

In an unrelated action, a mother and her daughter are challenging a ban on their proceedings against the London Borough of Newham, which they say wrongly took the child into care.

### Life's great lottery

ENTHUSIASTIC watchers of employment lawyer Denise Kingsmill's varied career may like to note that she has moved again. At the time of her high-profile move to Clyde & Co from D.J. Freeman in 1992 she said: "The most exciting part is they are going to fully resource and market the department as a new capability within the firm." But little more than a year later Ms Kingsmill has left, severing all contacts with

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Frances Gibb introduces the winners of The Times Law Awards 1993. The first prize of £3,000 goes to the author of the essay published below

Craig McGuire, 25, a student at The College of Law's Chester branch, has won first prize of £3,000 in The Times Law Awards 1993 sponsored by the Norton Rose M5 group of law firms. Mr McGuire's winning entry, published below, was picked from more than 150 essays on "Can the Legal System Cope with Serious Fraud?" by a panel of judges including Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The prizes were presented at a lunch held in Lincoln's Inn Old Hall attended by a range of senior legal figures including George Staple, the director of the Serious Fraud Office, Robert Seabrook, QC, the chairman of the Bar, and John Young, deputy president of the Law Society. There were also representatives from firms making up the Norton Rose M5 group.

Presenting the prizes, Lord Mackay quoted from Mr McGuire's essay: "To the victim of a serious fraud, or even an objective bystander, the legal system appears trapped in a world of its own: lawyers grid-locked by paralysis-by-analysis, while victims fall



Craig McGuire: best of 150

to receive comprehensive compensation or protection."

That was one perception of the problem, Lord Mackay said. Among the various reforms canvassed in the essays were strengthening the regulatory bodies; greater pre-trial disclosure; and plea-bargaining.

However, again citing the win-

ning essay, Lord Mackay said: "Greed, as the driving force of fraud and one of the eternal sins, will always be with mankind."

The winner of the second prize of £2,000 was Andrew Eastbrook, a third-year law student at Essex University. Third prize of £1,000 went to Ruth Wilkie, studying for an MPhil in criminology at Cambridge University.

Students studying for their solicitors' finals examinations at The College of Law swept the board with four of the top prizes.

Runners-up, who each won prizes of £250, were Antony Fleet, a law student at Oxford Brookes University, Andrew Mitchell, studying business law at Huddersfield University, and Rosaleen Boyle, who is taking the conversion course for non-law graduates (the common professional examination).

But among the six other finalists who made the shortlist of 12, three — as well as winner Craig McGuire — were at The College of Law studying for solicitors' finals examinations. Lai Yahaya and Stan Bishop are at the Central London branch and Lee Snook is at the Guildford branch.



Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, chatting with finalists and guests at the awards presentation in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn

## Far too often, swindlers simply take flight

'Fraud is infinite in variety: sometimes it is audacious and unblushing; sometimes it pays a sort of homage to virtue; and then it is modest and retiring. It would be modest itself if it could only afford it. But fraud is fraud all the same.'

Lord MacNaghten's words in the concurring case *Reddy v Barnham* (1896), show that succeeding generations have not broken the mould of history. Fraud is a persistent and prevalent offence. Serious fraud threatens the economy and integrity of the nation. Counterfeiters of British goods cost Britain at least £2 billion a year.

The huge corporate frauds as perpetrated on the electronics company Ferranti directly cost thousands of jobs. Swindlers of pension funds cost millions of pension investors peace of mind. The legal system has a key role in tackling fraud: this essay will discuss its ability to do so.

Surprisingly, there is no outright offence of fraud in English law. Fraud is a blanket term for offences involving dishonesty, ranging from false accounting to insider dealing. The legal system's approach to

fraud has evolved in a haphazard way as our economy has changed.

Land, once the fundamental hallmark of wealth in the UK, has developed a rigorous and expensive defence against fraud. Today, the legal system must endeavour to adapt itself to cope with the needs of a sophisticated and dynamic commercial society.

Serious fraud is currently defined by the Serious Fraud Office as an offence involving at least £5 million and/or a high level of complexity. To tackle serious fraud the Criminal Justice Act of 1987 established the Serious Fraud Office. It is effectively a flagship legal boutique, which has yet to justify the reasons for its creation.

Other public bodies, such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the Inland Revenue, the Bank of England and the Treasury, have powers to both investigate and regulate fraud. The methods of investigation, likelihood of conviction and penalties involved vary with each agency.

In a renewed attempt to deal with serious fraud the legal system has been re-engineered; the customary accusatorial system of criminal

justice replaced by an inquisitorial one.

Defendants are denied the right to silence, a centuries old privilege enjoyed since the judicial backlash against confessions obtained by torture. Furthermore, in an attempt to secure convictions, some senior lawyers have even contended the jury system as being too amateurish. Yet, at the heart of all fraud is dishonesty, an issue traditionally decided by one's peers, not lawyers.

To the victim of a serious fraud — or even an objective bystander — the legal system appears to be trapped in a world of its own: lawyers grid-locked by paralysis-by-analysis, while the victims fail to receive comprehensive compensation or protection.

The judiciary has responded, contrary to public perception, through tougher sentencing. The wages of sin, in most serious frauds brought to trial, are likely to be a prison sentence — although in an open prison, and with the highest chances in the parole stakes. The civil law requires reform.

Civil action can be nothing more than a legal merry-go-round. In terms of cost-benefit analysis, victims of fraud resulting in liquidation can receive virtually no benefit from the massive expenditure on professional fees. Surely, the alleged £150 million should be spent

**Those who operate in markets for profit should be made to finance the regulation of their market**

on compensation to victims rather than on remuneration to professionals?

A system should be available for a judge to cut through the Gordian knot of creditors' inter-relationships and declare that expending time and money on professionals is a poor investment of creditors' money and that a package for creditors is swiftly produced. This may appear to be rough and ready justice, but the alternative is rough-

er still. An examination of most serious fraud concludes that most of it is perpetrated within companies: the likely perpetrators being the management. Traditional firms such as Guinness and NatWest have been as much tainted as fly-by-night operations.

The traditional legal and social dependence on the model of directors' conduct is a fallacy. The power to supervise and remove directors is largely illusory. Far too often, corporate swindlers, as the aristocrats of crime, simply take flight to a convenient jurisdiction.

As an old Portuguese proverb advises: "Laws are like spiders' silk and with that spiders' silk, a spider can spin a web which can catch many flies but never a hawk."

British accountants are often perceived as being ideally placed to give early warning signals of fraud, due to their wide-ranging statutory rights of access to their clients' books. Yet accountants only test samples of a client's accounts: hence there is a large element of luck in auditors uncovering fraud.

Furthermore, auditors must be specifically engaged to search for fraud by the directors. An activity so expensive in fees that most clients simply request the cheapest audit rather than cripple themselves with massive costs: also an activity corporate swindlers are unlikely to commission.

To an economist the optimal level of fraud may not be zero; heresy to many lawyers, supposed cures can be worse than the disease. Increasing the level of competence in detecting and preventing serious fraud must be weighed against the corresponding resource costs. Many firms take matters into their own hands, having their own security measures.

The law cannot by itself regulate behaviour. Relying on legislation is unrealistic: it is expensive and difficult to enforce. With extensive re-structuring, self-regulation can assist. A series of disastrous regulatory failures — such as that of Robert Maxwell's activities, exposed unacceptably weaknesses of existing self-regulation.

Disciplinary tribunals and compensation schemes can be effective, if properly staffed and financed. It

is only fair that those who operate in markets for profit should be made to finance the regulation of their market.

Lawyers must above all have a practical approach. There is no quick-fix solution: no crime is ever rooted out once and for all. Greed, as the driving force of fraud and one of the eternal sins, will always be with mankind.

It is laudable though that criminal charges are brought against serious fraudsters. If anything, it is a deterrent and waters down well-justified criticism that there is one law for the rich and one for the poor. There is too much focus on revenge, not compensation.

As the Government increasingly encourages personal financial planning, particularly with pensions, its primary duty is to ensure that investors are adequately protected. Although conviction of a sophisticated corporate criminal is difficult, there is more than one way of skinning a cat. Bankruptcy, the humiliating fall from grace, and forced exile from the business world are tough sentences.

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## Concealing discovery material

**Milano Assicurazioni SpA v Walbrook Insurance Co Ltd and Others**

Before Mr Justice Waller

[Judgment January 25]

A plaintiff should not be allowed to amend a statement of claim endorsed on a writ and so in the public domain where the amendment made use of material obtained on discovery from the defendant and the plaintiff intended to use it for some purpose other than the pursuit of the action. Instead the amendment should be made as a statement of claim separate from the writ and thus not available for public inspection.

Plaintiffs should be cautious about putting material obtained on discovery into a specially endorsed writ, which would be available for public inspection, where such material could equally well be put in a separate statement of claim not in the public domain.

Mr Justice Waller gave directions on an application by Milano Assicurazioni SpA to re-amend further the points of claim in their action for breaches of reinsurance contracts against Walbrook Insurance Co Ltd and other insurance companies.

Mr David Milden for the plaintiffs, Mr Gavin Kallier for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE WALLER said the plaintiffs had on December 1, 1993 sought leave to re-re-amend their points of claim, asking that they should be allowed to amend their writ on which the points of claim had originally been en-

dorsed and re-issue it pursuant to Order 20, rule 10 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The plaintiffs wished to regularise matters so that third parties could see the present state of the pleaded case if they wanted to do so.

His Lordship and counsel were then under the misapprehension that a pleading, at least once the action was set down for trial, would be a public document whether it was endorsed on the writ or served in the course of proceedings. Further research by counsel had now established that pleadings other than statements of claim endorsed on the writ were not public documents. The plaintiffs had returned for an order that would enable them to amend and re-issue the writ.

The defendants resisted the granting of such an order and sought an injunction restraining the plaintiffs from showing any third party any points of claim on which the plaintiffs obtained leave to amend.

They said that the plaintiffs were seeking to use information that the plaintiffs had obtained from discovery given by the defendants, either in breach of confidence by virtue of an express agreement, or at the very least in breach of the implied obligation not to use the same for the purposes of the action.

The case raised the question where a plaintiff was simply free to amend a specially endorsed writ to allege that which he had discovered from the defendant's documents, if the amendment would disclose information so discovered.

It raised the question whether it was intended that there should be a distinction drawn between a specially endorsed writ which was available to be inspected and other pleadings, for example, a statement of claim not so endorsed on the writ, or a defence and counterclaim to a point of claim which was obtained on discovery, when they could equally easily produce a separate statement of claim where the information was not in the public domain.

On the facts of the case it was clear that third parties had been requesting disclosure of the amended and re-amended statements of claim in order to see what allegations were being made. The third parties wanted the information in order to launch their own attacks.

The court should certainly not allow the release of a pleading which was not already in the public domain to third parties in such circumstances and should not allow an amendment to a writ so as to produce a document that was available to the public when there was an ulterior purpose behind the amendment.

The court would obviously allow an amendment which produced points of claim in a separate document which was not then filed and open to public inspection. It would also allow an amendment of the writ to the extent that it was desired to produce a general endorsement that accurately reflected in general terms the present claim.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte, D. J. Freeman & Co.

**RMC Roadstone Products Ltd v Jester**

Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Mrs Justice Smith

[Judgment January 28]

An employer's mere capacity or opportunity to exercise some control over the activity of an independent contractor was not enough to bring that activity within the ambit of the employer's conduct of his undertaking for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

A conviction would follow unless the defendant was able to satisfy the court, on the balance of probabilities, that it had done all that was reasonably practicable to comply with the duty imposed.

A question was asked of the court whether the work carried out by Mr Jester on the adjacent premises formed part of the appellant's conduct of its undertaking.

There being no definition of "undertaking" in the Act, a defendant's undertaking was, in accordance with the dictionary meaning, his business or enterprise.

As counsel for the appellant accepted that the maintenance and repair of its premises was included in the appellant's undertaking, the question could be put otherwise: in acting through independent contractors, rather than its employees, could the appellant be still said to have been "conducting its undertaking"?

Counsel for the appellant relied on the dicta of Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle in *Austin Rover Group Ltd v HM Inspector of Factories* (1990) AC 619, 634, a prosecution under section 4 of the Act. There, reviewing the scheme of the Act, his Lordship had said, three of their Lordships agreeing, that

**Actual control under safety laws**

1 That the defendant was an employer;

2 That the activity or state of affairs which gave rise to the complaint fell within the ambit of the defendant's conduct of his undertaking;

3 That there was a risk to the health or safety of persons, other than his employees, who were affected by that aspect of his conduct of his undertaking.

A conviction would follow unless the defendant was able to satisfy the court, on the balance of probabilities, that it had done all that was reasonably practicable to comply with the duty imposed.

The case of *Carmichael v Rosehall Engineering Works Ltd* (1984 SLT 40) lent support to the proposition that a defendant's conduct of his undertaking was not limited to those activities over which he had complete control.

Her Ladyship concluded with great hesitation that Lord Jauncey, who did not hear argument on the point, might not have considered all the variety of situations in which a person could share control of an activity that might still be described as the conduct of his undertaking and that the respondent's alternative submission was well founded.

Nonetheless, the conviction could not be upheld unless the respondent could establish not only that complete control was not necessary but also that the mere capacity of the principal to exercise some control over an activity, where there was no duty under the civil law so to do, brought that activity within the ambit of the

conduct of his undertaking. No authority had been cited for such a proposition and her Ladyship was unable to accept it.

In her Ladyship's judgment, it was necessary for the employer either to exercise actual control over the activity or to be under a duty so to do.

If a principal chose to leave the independent contractor to do the work in the way he saw fit, the work would be wholly the contractor's undertaking. If the principal did involve himself, albeit voluntarily, then his involvement would be within the ambit of his undertaking.

If the appellant had been held under a duty, imposed by the Act, to devise a safe system of work for its independent contractors, its duty under the criminal law would extend far beyond the duty imposed by civil law. Her Ladyship drew comfort from the fact that her conclusion was consistent with the proposition which the Court of Appeal had accepted in *R v Swan Hunter Shipbuilders* (1981) 1 CR 831 to the effect that the Act, at least so far as section 2 was concerned, was not intended to impose a duty which went beyond the common law.

In the circumstances, the justices were not entitled to find that the activity of removing the sheets, as opposed to the appellant's act of appointing contractors to do work for it, fell within the ambit of the appellant's conduct of its undertaking.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Mr L. V. Heap, Croydon; Solicitor for the Health and Safety Executive.

sections 2 and 3 imposed duties on a single person who was in a position to exercise complete control over the matters to which the duties extended.

While her Ladyship found it inconceivable, contrary to the respondent's contention, that Parliament should have intended that there should be criminal liability for matters over which the defendant had no control, the respondent's alternative submission that complete control was not necessary, so that where control was shared by both the independent contractor and his principal the activity in question might form part of the conduct of the undertaking of each, was more attractive.

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Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Mr L. V. Heap, Croydon; Solicitor for the Health and Safety Executive.

## No penalty after VAT correction

**Commissioners of Customs and Excise v P & O Steam Navigation Company**

Before Lord Justice Balcombe

Before Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Tasker Watkins

[Judgment January 26]

A misdeclared value-added tax return corrected by a compensating misdeclaration in respect of the same transaction for the following accounting period with no overall loss of VAT did not render the trader liable for a serious misdeclaration penalty under section 14 of the Finance Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal brought by P & O Steam Navigation Company against the decision of Mr Justice Simon Brown (The Times October 9, 1992) when he allowed the appeal of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the decision of the London VAT Tribunal, presided over by Judge Medd, QC, to allow P & O's appeal from a serious misdeclaration penalty imposed

by the commissioners for £99,222.60 plus £3,499.23 default interest.

Mr David Milne, QC, Mr Gerald Barling, QC and Mr Adrian Shipwright for P & O; Mr Kenneth Parker, QC and Miss Alison Foster for the commissioners.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that P & O's prescribed accounting period for VAT was a calendar month. On May 30, 1990 P & O rendered a monthly return for April with a figure of £1,977,211 for VAT reclaimed for purchases and other inputs which included £334,987 worth of input tax recoverable under two invoices dated May 2.

When the May return was rendered at the end of June it omitted any reference to the two May invoices or the input tax to which they referred. The error was discovered by the commissioners' VAT officer on a routine audit control visit.

In the Court of Appeal, P & O raised an argument based on

section 14(4) of the Finance Act 1985 which, in his Lordship's judgment, was decisive of the appeal.

Section 14(4) set out the method of calculating the "tax" which would have been lost "for the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), for a prescribed accounting period. Subsection (4) defined that phrase as the aggregate of: (a) the amount (if any) by which credit for input tax for that period was overstated; and (b) the amount (if any) by which output tax for that period was understated."

"That period" clearly meant the prescribed accounting period. Subsection (4) then provided that "if for any period there is an understatement of credit for input tax... allowance shall be made for that error in determining the tax for that period which would have been so lost."

P & O argued that the word "any" in the last part of subsection (4) was to be taken literally, and included the period of the calendar month of May 1990.

In its return for that May period

P & O understated its credit for input tax by failing to claim a credit for the amount of the input tax which it had mistakenly claimed in the April period.

If allowance was made for that error in determining the tax for the April period which would have been lost if the inaccuracy had not been discovered, then no tax would have been lost for the April period so as to give rise to liability for a penalty under section 14(1).

His Lordship was content to decide the appeal on the literal wording of section 14(4) and accepted the arguments on behalf of P & O. Had his Lordship been in any doubt as to the true construction of subsection 4, it would have been resolved in favour of P & O by the application of the well known canons for construction of a section, such as section 14, which imposed a penalty.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered a concurring judgment and Sir Tasker Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

## Review of current position in all Lloyd's litigation

**Lloyd's Litigation: Note**

Mr Justice Cresswell, judge in charge of the Commercial List, said on January 31 that he would be conducting a further review in chambers of the current position of all Lloyd's cases on the following dates:

(a) LMX cases: February 21 at 10.30am  
(b) Long tail cases: February 22 at 10.30am  
(c) Re-insurance to close cases: February 22 at 10.30am  
(d) Personal stop loss cases: February 22 at 2pm  
(e) Portfolio selection cases: February 23 at 10.30am  
(f) Stoney cases/central fund litigation: February 23 at 2pm  
(g) Other cases: February 24 at 10.30am

At a moment when Mr Derhun was alone on the roof of the factory, he fell through a skylight on to the ground and suffered fatal injuries. The immediate cause for his fall was not known.

Her Ladyship said that in order to establish *prima facie* liability under section 3(1) the prosecution had to prove three elements:

(vi) The name(s) of the defendants' counsel.

(vii) The date when proceedings were commenced.

(viii) The action number.

(ix) The stage the proceedings had reached.

(x) The number of members in the plaintiffs' action group (if any).

(xi) The amount of the claim.

(xii) The years of account covered by the claim.

(xiii) When it was estimated the action would be ready for trial (if a date had not already been fixed).

(xiv) An estimate of the length of the trial.

Solicitors for plaintiffs and defendants should notify the Clerk to the Commercial Court in writing by February 14 who would represent their clients at the review hearings and on which dates.

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Closing date: 23 February 1994.

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## THEATRE page 38

Helpless victims of an evil society: Julia Ford in *The Lodger*, Simon Burke's new play

## ARTS

## CINEMA page 39

Derek Jarman's last film, a "video diary" covering 15 years of his life, is previewed in Rotterdam



GALLERIES: Two revelatory shows in New York; plus market news and London recommendations

## Genius in a strange landscape

Richard Cork reviews shows of Lucian Freud and Degas at the Metropolitan Museum in New York

Until recently, Lucian Freud was all but ignored by the American gallery-going public. While his old friend Francis Bacon became the most esteemed British artist in the US, Freud remained virtually unknown. So the advent of his major show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York's grandest exhibition venue, is a momentous event. How would a city so long in thrall to Sigmund Freud and his proliferating disciples react to the art produced, largely over the past few years, by his no less tenacious grandson?

The answer is astonishing. Far from suffering continued indifference, Freud the painter now finds himself the talk of Manhattan. Visitors are thronging the rooms superbly installed by William S. Lieberman, chairman of 20th-century art at the Met. A remarkable tally of 130,000 visitors has so far been notched up, and more than 9,000 on one recent Sunday alone. With more than a month yet to run, attendances have already outstripped the buoyant total recorded during the show's previous run at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. And judging by the reactions I encountered, when delivering a public lecture on Freud to a capacity crowd at the Met, New Yorkers are debating his merits with extraordinary passion.

The reviews have proved equally outspoken, ranging from rapturous advocacy to derisive condemnation. Readers of *The Times* who recall my assessment of the exhibition's London version will know that I side with Freud's admirers. But the Met's presentation stimulated me into looking at his work with fresh eyes. The sequence of rooms could hardly be more removed from the Whitechapel's all-white, barn-like display. Vastness has been replaced by intimacy, and coolness by warmth. In London, the pictures were subjected to the minimum of room divisions. But the New York survey is broken down into a series of compact spaces, all encouraging us to engage with the images as closely as Freud himself scrutinises his sitters.

The outcome grows increasingly intense. Moving from an expanded selection of the early paintings, with their glacial, almost hallucinatory detail, we find ourselves confronted by the more freely and richly worked paintings of his maturity. Freud is now at the height

of his formidable abilities, and a new painting added to the show proves that he continues to explore human vulnerability and resilience with as much hawk-like power as ever.

By a felicitous chance, the other exhibition at the Met is a pioneering survey devoted to an unfamiliar aspect of an artist venerated by Freud. The images Degas produced of ballerinas, racehorses and women at their toilet have long been among the most popular of all Impressionist pictures. Many of the finest are displayed in the Met's permanent collection, but Degas the landscapist is scarcely visible there. Now, through the devoted researches of the British artist and historian Richard Kendall, the true extent of his preoccupation with landscape is disclosed for the first time.

Although Degas was primarily involved with the human body, few of the 75 paintings, pastels, prints and drawings assembled here use the landscape merely as a backdrop for narrative subjects. Even in his student days, when he toured Italy and copied Renaissance figure paintings, the countryside

is studied for its own sake. In a wonderfully understated yet complete oil sketch of 1856, the 22-year-old artist gazes through an arch towards a heavily foliated Neapolitan vista. Most of the deep green woods are in shadow, but a small burst of sunlight irradiates a distant house. This sudden luminosity is tantamount to a quiet revelation, and Degas's prodigiously keen eyesight defines the fortress of Capodimonte on the horizon with absolute sharpness.

In later life, that laser-like vision would fade into blindness. But the youthful Degas seized on the most far-off elements of a chosen panorama. One extraordinary pencil drawing of a Roman landscape picks out the tiniest trees and boulders with a miniaturist's precision. There is nothing pedantic about this exactitude, though. Degas is always aware of the totality. He alternates with sometimes disconcerting freedom between areas of painstaking detail and passages where an indistinctness bordering on fuzziness prevails. It is as if he continually questions his own involvement with the microscopic, breaking off from delineating a diminutive building, and asserting the right to be boldly simplified.

This is the side of Degas which made him alive to his most audacious Impressionist



*The Field of Flax*, 1892, included in a New York survey which reveals for the first time the full extent of Degas's preoccupation with landscape

contemporaries. Although some early landscape studies are used as fodder for the backgrounds of over-theatrical history paintings, which stress his involvement with tradition, he decided in 1869 to concentrate on an extended series of seascapes. They are, identically, modest in size and reliant on pastel alone. But they bear no trace of his former fascination with subjects as recondite as *The Daughter of Jephtha*. Now, on a summer trip to the Normandy coast, Degas followed Boudin and Monet in his concentration on sea, sky,

sand and cliffs. These limpid images must have made him feel as if he had reached a clearing after the tangled elaboration of the historical scenes. Figures are scarcely detectable. Degas revels in emptiness, and stresses immensity at every turn.

On the rare occasions when people do appear, they are reduced to minuscule strokes on otherwise bare stretches of beach. Boats defined with equal sparseness sometimes punctuate the unruffled water. But more often than not, Degas is a thoroughgoing minimalist. *Seascape at Sun-*

set seems almost as reliant as a Rothko on horizontal bands of soft and hazy colour.

Not that his central commitment to the human figure waned for long. Ballet scenes and portraits dominated Degas's production in the 1870s, when the Impressionist revolution was at its height. Despite his continuing interest in the raccourse, he marked himself out as an interpreter of the urban scene par excellence. So even his warmest supporters were surprised when, in November 1892, he devoted the whole of his first one-man show to landscapes.

Held at the Galerie Durand-Ruel, the exhibition contained around 25 images executed in an idiosyncratic blend of pastel and monotype. The critics were astounded to find Degas proclaiming such a sustained engagement with the countryside, and the Met's success in reunifying these little-known pictures forces us to alter our view of his overall achievement.

Travelling by horse-drawn carriage through Burgundy in 1890 provided him with perhaps his most enthralling experience of the French landscape. His host, in a village north of Dijon, was the painter-printmaker Georges Jeanneret. And he recalled that Degas was "in raptures over the journey". Impatient to begin work at once, he impressed Jeannerot with his mastery of the monotype process, manipulating ink on a copper plate and then printing the dark image on a sheet of paper.

All the same, the strangest and most hypnotic aspect of these landscapes is their austerity. However ecstatic Degas may have felt, he reserved his enthusiasm for unassuming locales. Lacking the exuberant verdancy which Monet so often celebrated, and subdued to the point of dryness, these images have the elusiveness of dreams. In one picture, Degas indulges in gentle humour by hinting at the forms of a recumbent woman within the

dip and swell of a cliff-top. But elsewhere his approach is reverend. Although Vesuvius erupts in a rostate 1892 work, recalling a pencil study he had made 35 years before, nothing disturbs the placidity of the river bank, wheatfield and craggy eminence depicted in other works.

Degas relishes the notion of landscape as an inviolate place, hushed and secluded. His own passion for privacy doubtless made him identify with these out-of-the-way, unfrequented settings. The prevailing mood is so restrained that the sudden advent of a pale blue field of flax in full bloom triggers a sensuous shock. Even here, though, Degas confines himself to essence alone. No elaboration is permitted, and the outcome often looks uncannily prophetic of 20th-century abstraction. These tender landscapes disclose the most mysterious and innovative part of his complex imagination. They prove how much we have yet to learn about this most secretive, multi-faceted and unpredictable of all the great French painters who provided the forcing-house for the growth of modern art.

● Degas Landscapes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (122 570 351) until April 3. Richard Kendall's sumptuous book is published by Yale University Press.

● Lucian Freud: Recent work continues at the Met until March 13

## GALLERIES: CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **VICTORIAN ILLUSTRATED BOOKS 1850-1870:** When Forrest Reid wrote his classic book *Illustrators of the Sixties* in 1928, the notion of taking seriously these commercial artists working often for ephemeral magazines and having their designs interpreted by professional wood-engravers came up as though new-minted. The vogue it created died down, but the fascination persists, along with the scholarship to validate it. One of the leading scholars and collectors in the field, Robin de Beaumont, has given his collection of books, magazines and original drawings to the British Museum, and this BM exhibition does the job. Of course the Pre-Raphaelites like Millais and Rossetti hold up well, but the less familiar styles and ideas of full-time illustrators like Arthur Boyd Houghton and G.J. Pinwell are excitingly original and distinctive.

● **THE STUDY OF ITALIAN OLD MASTER DRAWINGS:** The drawings themselves are fascinatingly diverse and full of wonder. But this is a show about ideas as well as artworks: it introduces us to the world of connoisseurship. The peg for this is the career of Philip Poincy, deputy keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum for many years and later a director of Sotheby's. He must have had a fantastically retentive visual memory: most of his legendary identifications can have come about only through the indelible lodging of images in the brain. The show sends one away with a new respect for his kind of connoisseur.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555) Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2.30-5pm, until April 24.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CONCERT: Schumann in his context

## Romantic links for music-lovers

HERE was an intriguing second instalment of Raymond Leppard's series "Schumann and Friends", given with a rejuvenated English Chamber Orchestra and with the added attraction of a star singer in Ann Murray. It was a potential house-filler, yet there were many empty seats. Perhaps the music-loving public preferred not to worry about what Meyerbeer and Schumann have in common, but very little in common. If Meyerbeer's *Overture Sruense*, which opened the programme, was to be taken as typical of his work, there are echoes in this strong piece, written to introduce an eponymous play by Meyerbeer's brother, of Weber and of Berlioz but his is an individual idiom. The ECO and Leppard gave a sturdy performance, though the stormy currents that underpin the piece should surely have been less restrained.

Perhaps the polite approach

ECO/Leppard Barbican

was a cautionary tactic to keep the orchestra's responses sensitised for the subtleties of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*. If so, the plan worked. Ann Murray, though herself a mite plain in the opening "Villanelle" (always a tricky number to bring off, perhaps because of its essential innocence), was soon able to summon the freedom and control needed to garnish this music with the refined inflections of colour and phrasing it demands. Each successive piece was realised with a spellbinding sense of poetry and a voice of singularly beguiling beauty: Leppard and the ECO responded accordingly. As a bonus we heard Murray again after the interval in another transfixing performance, of Mendelssohn's concert aria "Infelice", Op 94.



Ann Murray: spellbinding sense of poetry in Berlioz

Leppard's solid reading of Schumann's Second Symphony had symphonic Beethovenian grandeur for that matter symphonic Mendelssohnian well within its sights, but he was equally in tune with this work's marvellously fresh, open-air vigour. The ECO expertly negotiated the hazards of the scampering agitations of the Scherzo, while Leppard ensured that the Adagio flowed without losing ripeness of expression, and the finale resounded its triumph with unfettered joy.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## A whacking great triumph

TELEVISION REVIEW: Lynne Truss eavesdrops on the chaps at the golf club bar

The golf club has been conspicuously popular in the media of late. In BBC2's *Further Abroad*, Jonathan Meades drove a hurtling motor-buggy across green and bunker, while examining the suburban architecture in Michael Cockerell's *Dear Bill*, Denis Thatcher and Bill Deedes whacked the ball across emerald sward ("Oh dear", "That, I think, was a little unfortunate"); and at New Year, on Radio 4, Maureen Lipman gave us *Birdies*, a chirrupy but heartfelt analysis of the golf club's adherence to the grand tradition of sexism. "Last bastion" is a dire phrase, but there you are. If one is searching for a sort-of last bastion, and cannot penetrate (or possibly even locate) the Garrick, then the golf club is pretty well irresistible.

Whacking the ball is healthy, of course: it also entails a gratifying sense of moral effort, which is why Stephen Leacock said it could be played on Sundays. Fresh air, exercise and good-humoured optimism are evidently the main ingredients of the golf player's experience, and last night's entertaining Cut-

ting Edge (Channel 4) confidently captured a sense of all three. Focusing on the Northwood Golf Club in Middlesex, this film by Brian Hill and Kate Woods strode out in fancy trousers, took a steady position, swung back, and then whack, threw its weight effortlessly behind each stroke. It was delightful. There was style in it; there was even etiquette.

Etiquette was the key to the golf club, clearly. At the formal dinners, the president would "take wine" with the secretary and the treasurer, then some other cove (by order of precedence), then toast the Queen, and so on. At the Ladies' Luncheon, amazingly, the President (male) used the pleasant occasion as an opportunity seriously to upbraid the downtrodden disenfranchised female membership for neglecting his wife's ceremonial flowers. When new captains take office, they ritually drive a ball down the fairway, to much applause and excite-

ment, thus inaugurating themselves with a symbolic whack.

Much of this self-importance was ridiculous but not laughed at. Where it got hilarious and scary, however, was in the board meetings. "You have adversely affected the harmony of the Green Commune meetings," a troublesome member was told, gravely. His reaction to his dressing-down ("spurious and incorrect allegations... sick and tired") was a treat to behold — a man with a bendy cherub face, smiling but uncertain, unrepentant yet ultimately cowed. "If you don't stop these activities forthwith," announced the chairman, "a resolution proposing your expulsion from the club will be put before the board."

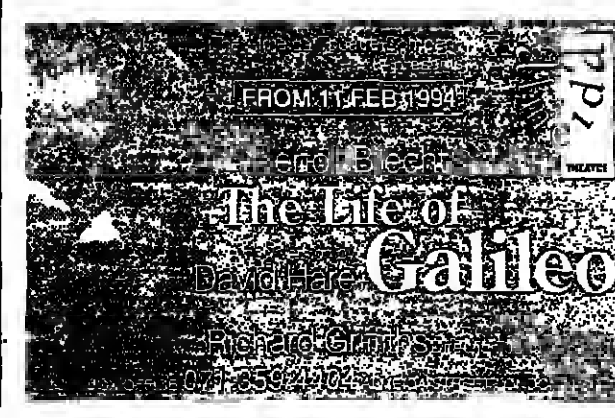
Several members gave their opinions on the club — a disaffected former board member, the bright current membership director, lots of overweight men in nice sweat-

ers with quaintly neanderthal ideas about ladies' decorativeness — but the people's favourite will have been Preston Lockwood, an ancient well-spoken spindleshanks with White Knight flavoured hair who whacked with abandon, wore a natty zip-up leather jacket and was rarely lost for an entertaining turn of phrase. "I notice you never take a practice swing," said someone behind the camera. "No. Far too tiring," came the cheerful reply. "I'm a diabolical player," he continued. "I kid myself I enjoy it, but I don't really. I hate the game."

In her report, Justice Beatrice Shainswit wrote that the writer's excuses were "so mired in confusion and contradiction as to utterly destroy Hoving's credibility". Because the article had been stopped in time, however, she ruled that charges of contempt were not necessary.

● FLUSHED with the success of recovering the multi-million pound Lydian hoard from the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Turks are at it again. Claims for other missing treasures are in train in the United States, Germany and Switzerland, and according to *Art & Auction* magazine the British Museum comes next. The shopping list is believed to include statues from the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus — once one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The BM denies that any official requests have been received from the Turks.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND





## LONDON

**THE COMPANY.** A northern seaside resort in the setting for Simon Ben's latest play, where a group of twenty-somethings are floundering their way towards love and loyalty. Ben's, Shepherd's Bush, W12 (01-743 3389). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Thursday, 7pm.

**PETER PAN.** In the build-up to his latest, Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, the wonderfully whimsical Captain Jack, Neil Patrick Harris, is back. The production is brought to life on stage. Wembley, The Broadway, SW18 (01-540 0382). Today, Sat, 7.30pm, male West, Thur, Sat, 2.30pm.

**LONDON PALHARADES.** Malcolm Harcoppe conducts two children's concerts today, suitable for ages five to ten years old. The programme theme is the circus and includes works by Richard Scott, John, Stephen Chabrier, Berlioz, Stravinsky and Prokofiev. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (01-733 8800). Today, 11am and 1pm.

**ELSEWHERE**

**SOUTHAMPTON.** Opening night for Nicolas Boileau's highly praised production of *Le Festin de Babouche* at the Theatre of the West Indies. A beautiful new production of the play.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

**ON THE STAGE.** The play is the story of a young man who has been in the army and is now back in the city. The play is a comedy and is a very good one. The play is a comedy and is a very good one. The play is a comedy and is a very good one.

**ON THE SCREEN.** A short series of musical comedies is on offer as Neil Sherrin hosts his own tribute to the world's most popular songwriting talents. The series is a very good one. The series is a very good one. The series is a very good one.

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## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

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## THEATRE: A prize-winner in Manchester, Wittgenstein revisited and Ibsen on the fringe

## Plunge down the U-bend

The Lodger  
Royal Exchange,  
Manchester

NO, this is not a new adaptation of what was once a famous novel — and eventually a play, film and opera — by Mrs Belloc-Lowndes. It would have sent her tottering from the theatre in matronly dismay, incredulous at a future where four-letter events could be seen by a nice northern public. Her *Lodger* did, it's true, involve Jack the Ripper, but mainly in his off-street mode. Simon Burke's play brings a tart and, later, her pimp beneath the roof of a policeman with a history of domestic violence, and leaves little to the imagination.

Burke, author of the television series *Chancer* and now winner of the Mobil Playwriting Competition, is quite candid about his aims. In the programme he admits to having written a nasty, brutish piece, adding that he "cannot see the purpose of theatre unless it is to plunge down the U-bend where television and film cannot go without losing their shirts". This sounds a trifle facetious, and in the event proves to be exactly that. To adopt Burke's analogy, his play does not end up shirtless, but in the journey between too seat and sewer its clothing does get a bit dishevelled.

The *Lodger* is never less than gripping, though, and especially in the first half, it is also interestingly odd. Burke, who seems determined to fill the programme with weird metaphors, calls it "a protracted howl of rage in a loose elastic structure", leaving us to wonder if its form is to be that of a pair of baggy knickers or maybe a failed catapult. But that worry does not last long. Julian Gorman fills the stage with bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living-room, while leaving space for a

bar or hospital bed to be shunted in; and, thanks partly to the white, red or blue strips of light he also provides, Richard Wilson's direction generates a sense of sinister goings-on in mundane places. Everybody is fibbing or withholding information, for purposes still unclear. Philip Jackson's morose DC Wise passes himself off as a security guard or someone "employed by the Home Office", calls himself a widower when he isn't yet divorced, and disguises the fact he is computer dating when we've seen him both an encounter with a scared teacher, Julia Ford's sassy, combative Lois may be a redundant market researcher who does tricks on the side or a full-time pro, and may or may not be escaping an abusive husband. With Robert Calvert's sullen barman and Matthew Marsh's cynical police sergeant adding to the atmosphere, all is insecurity, menace and Pinterish mystery.

But clarification brings with it a certain banality and implausibility. Lois's pimp (Mark Womack) arrives disguised as a commercial traveller in search of lodgings and proceeds to put her on the game under the nose of the strangely named Wise, who has fallen in love with her and has started inviting her to car-bomb sales as a prelude to marriage. We know our policemen are fallible and their clear-up rate appalling. But can we really



Tricks on the side: Julia Ford, a sassy, combative Lois in *The Lodger*

buy such naivety from an emotionally bruised detective who himself says that cops trust nobody, not even themselves? Meanwhile, the feeling grows "he's not that bad", says Lois of her knife-wielding pimp. "He doesn't close hospitals", says Burke wants us to sympathise with these people as help-

less victims of an evil society. That seems difficult. But there are dramatic strengths too: sombre comedy, deft dialogue, and a nice twist and counter-twist at the end. Burke and his shirt will surely engineer the U-bend more consistently next time.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## A clear case for remaining silent

Wittgenstein's  
Daughter  
White Bear, SE11

child. Or rather, the prize-fighter will father the child and pretend it is Wittgenstein's. Because if ever it comes to be thought

that the closing proposition of his *Tractatus* (Whereof one cannot speak one must remain silent) relates to his inability to talk about his sexual philosophy, according to Edwards: "For if a man has lived illegitimately, he must have thought dishonestly."

And that's about it. I think, Roger Monk makes the prize-fighter really quite credible, as these things go.

On the night I saw the show, an audience of schoolchildren was not making matters easy. Simon Chandler (Reverend Farebrother in the BBC's *Middlemarch*) was struggling to be knowingly playful: Torvald's stern way-side came to the fore rather rapidly.

Lefton is known primarily as a movement director, so it is curious that the production's physicality is not its strength. Certainly, people may have acted more melodramatically in the 19th century, and the Helmers, facing blackmail and death, are hardly having an uneventful Christmas. Still, would they have hit the deck with quite the regularity we see here? Pine floorboards have their attractions, of course, but this is unnatural.

The New End's power is intimacy, and *A Doll's House* demands scrupulously small-scale acting. Lefton has not yet coaxed the performers into a crystal-clear understanding of psychological shifts. Overall, though, this is encouraging fringe theatre.

KATE BASSETT

## Full marks for trying

A Doll's House  
New End, NW3

side whether to be silently animated or freeze. Consequently, they appear to be literally boring each other stiff.

On the other hand, director Sue Lefton and her lead actors are fairly big names themselves. Lefton has worked with the RSC for many years. The production looks strikingly professional with its swaths of dark velvet surrounding a sunny world of fine period costumes.

Rachel Joyce gives a truly driven performance, even if her Nora is made too profound and sympathetic too soon. Though Joyce has a Felicity

gent-faced woman acting the frivolous giggle in her throat, you are never quite fooled by this intelligent

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KATE BASSETT

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## ART GALLERIES

**ROY MILES GALLERY.** Well Framed Landscapes in Oil from 1900. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

**COUSINS.** 01 531 9161. The English National Opera. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

## THEATRES

**ABELEN.** "Andrew Lloyd Webber's Amazing Technicolor Musical" Los Angeles Times.

## SUNSET BOULEVARD

Current Booking Period to March 12th. Following its overwhelming success, the Los Angeles award-winning production will now be seen in London. New booking period now open from April 7th.

**24/7 CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS.** CALL 01 344 0055 (day) or 01 344 0056 (night) (day) or 01 344 0057 (night) (day) or 01 344 0058 (night) (day) or 01 344 0059 (night) (day) or 01 344 0060 (night) (day) or 01 344 0061 (night) (day) or 01 344 0062 (night) (day) or 01 344 0063 (night) (day) or 01 344 0064 (night) (day) or 01 344 0065 (night) (day) or 01 344 0066 (night) (day) or 01 344 0067 (night) (day) or 01 344 0068 (night) (day) or 01 344 0069 (night) (day) or 01 344 0070 (night) (day) or 01 344 0071 (night) (day) or 01 344 0072 (night) (day) or 01 344 0073 (night) (day) or 01 344 0074 (night) (day) or 01 344 0075 (night) (day) or 01 344 0076 (night) (day) or 01 344 0077 (night) (day) or 01 344 0078 (night) (day) or 01 344 0079 (night) (day) or 01 344 0080 (night) (day) or 01 344 0081 (night) (day) or 01 344 0082 (night) (day) or 01 344 0083 (night) (day) or 01 344 0084 (night) (day) or 01 344 0085 (night) (day) or 01 344 0086 (night) (day) or 01 344 0087 (night) (day) or 01 344 0088 (night) (day) or 01 344 0089 (night) (day) or 01 344 0090 (night) (day) or 01 344 0091 (night) (day) or 01 344 0092 (night) (day) or 01 344 0093 (night) (day) or 01 344 0094 (night) (day) or 01 344 0095 (night) (day) or 01 344 0096 (night) (day) or 01 344 0097 (night) (day) or 01 344 0098 (night) (day) or 01 344 0099 (night) (day) or 01 344 0100 (night) (day) or 01 344 0101 (night) (day) or 01 344 0102 (night) (day) or 01 344 0103 (night) (day) or 01 344 0104 (night) (day) or 01 344 0105 (night) (day) or 01 344 0106 (night) (day) or 01 344 0107 (night) (day) or 01 344 0108 (night) (day) or 01 344 0109 (night) (day) or 01 344 0110 (night) (day) or 01 344 0111 (night) (day) or 01 344 0112 (night) (day) or 01 344 0113 (night) (day) or 01 344 0114 (night) (day) or 01 344 0115 (night) (day) or 01 344 0116 (night) (day) or 01 344 0117 (night) (day) or 01 344 0118 (night) (day) or 01 344 0119 (night) (day) or 01 344 0120 (night) (day) or 01 344 0121 (night) (day) or 01 344 0122 (night) (day) or 01 344 0123 (night) (day) or 01 344 0124 (night) (day) or 01 344 0125 (night) (day) or 01 344 0126 (night) (day) or 01 344 0127 (night) (day) or 01 344 0128 (night) (day) or 01 344 0129 (night) (day) or 01 344 0130 (night) (day) or 01 344 0131 (night) (day) or 01 344 0132 (night) (day) or 01 344 0133 (night) (day) or 01 344 0134 (night) (day) or 01 344 0135 (night) (day) or 01 344 0136 (night) (day) or 01 344 0137 (night) (day) or 01 344 0138 (night) (day) or 01 344 0139 (night) (day) or 01 344 0140 (night) (day) or 01 344 0141 (night) (day) or 01 344 0142 (night) (day) or 01 344 0143 (night) (day) or 01 344 0144 (night) (day) or 01 344 0145 (night) (day) or 01 344 0146 (night) (day) or 01 344 0147 (night) (day) or 01 344 0148 (night) (day) or 01 344 0149 (night) (day) or 01 344 0150 (night) (day) or 01 344 0151 (night) (day) or 01 344 0152 (night) (day) or 01 344 0153 (night) (day) or 01 344 0154 (night) (day) or 01 344 0155 (night) (day) or 01 344 0156 (night) (day) or 01 344 0157 (night) (day) or 01 344 0158 (night) (day) or 01 344 0159 (night) (day) or 01 344 0160 (night) (day) or 01 344 0161 (night) (day) or 01 344 0162 (night) (day) or 01 344 0163 (night) (day) or 01 344 0164 (night) (day) or 01 344 0165 (night) (day) or 01 344 0166 (night) (day) or 01 344 0167 (night) (day) or 01 344 0168 (night) (day) or 01 344 0169 (



# Derek Jarman's lyrical legacy on grainy Super-8



Derek Jarman: "I like the fact that everyone smiles" he said when *Glitterbug* was completed

Derek Jarman's *Blue* is a testament as fine as any artist could hope to leave. Even so, this was not to be his last word. A new Derek Jarman film, *Glitterbug*, was previewed in a private screening at the Rotterdam Film Festival last week, as the director himself lay in hospital.

The film is a lyrical compilation of fragments from the hundreds of Super-8 films Jarman shot between 1971 and 1986 as a kind of visual diary. When the project was commissioned by BBC's *Arena*, Jarman was already so weak from the effects of AIDS-related diseases, with his sight practically gone, that it appeared that the work would be entirely completed by his assistant, David Lewis, and his editor, Andy Crab.

For the past five years, however, Jarman's phenomenal creativity somehow defied physical debility, and the will persisted. The state-of-the-art video editing facilities used for the film, giving instant touch-button control of the

David Robinson pays tribute to *Glitterbug*, the last, joyous, nostalgic work from the artist and film-maker

image, proved irresistible to his film-maker's instinct, and he was fascinated too by the retrieval of these 20-year-old memories. *Glitterbug* is in every sense a Derek Jarman film.

Having begun his career as a painter and designer, Jarman only turned to film when he worked with Ken Russell on *The Devils* in 1970-71. He was charmed by the turbulent Russell, and even more by the medium. He bought his first Super-8 camera, and from that time obsessively filmed everything around him, from his morning shave and his breakfast table to sculptures or landscapes that took his fancy, a procession of nuns in a Roman piazza or Italian punks outside a church.

These are more, though, than

ordinary home movies. As both painter and film-maker, Jarman seemed incapable of creating an image that was not instantly arresting for its composition and content. The graininess of Super-8 is made a virtue, and every trick effect is joyfully exploited.

The nostalgia that inevitably haunts this very personal recollection of a past era of London's Bohemia is reinforced by the title which introduces the final sequence: "One last walk, one last look. Bankside 1971". There are other frolics in Jarman's famous Bankside studio (eventually dramatically destroyed by fire along with all his paintings); the filming of *Sebastiane*, all nudity under the Mediterranean sun, and *Jubilee*:

forgotten punk celebrities of the Seventies; backstage and the catwalks of the Alternative Miss World Contest; vanished favourite teashops; Jarman's friends — street youths and poets, William Burroughs, Tilda Swinton, Michael Clarke.

There is no speech or commentary beyond the musical score by Brian Eno, just a general, vivid evocation of fun and pleasure and friendship: "I like the fact that everyone smiles," said Jarman when the film was completed. The film recalls a generation many of whom have vanished along with the era, "faded", as Jarman says memorably in *Blue*, "like flowers cut by the scythe of the Blue-Bearded Reaper, parched as the waters of life receded".

● Derek Jarman's richly atmospheric codicil to *Blue* will be screened by *Arena* in the spring, and released on video — accompanied by a glossy booklet of Jarman's literary recollections of the period — by Dangerous to Know on April 11.

## 'The spine of the story is true and responsible'

When Ireland last met England on a football pitch the two teams drew. "There's a great saying in Ireland, and not without irony," Jim Sheridan says. "It says that the last time we played England we beat them one-all."

In the *Name of the Father*, Sheridan's "Guildford Four" film, which opens in Britain this Friday, was made, its director says, as an "answer to power". "We so rarely win that anything gives us a vague reply is seized upon."

Sheridan is dressed in emerald-green trousers, and he says "film" with an emerald-green lilt despite the years spent in America running a theatre company before he broke into the movie world. *My Left Foot* (which, like *In the Name*, starred Daniel Day-Lewis) was his directorial debut; it was nominated for five Oscars and won two.

The response to *In the Name* has been shockingly different. In America, where it opened last month, the talk is still of Oscars. But in Britain and in some Irish quarters, Sheridan's film has been denounced for maligning British justice, romanticising terrorists, boosting support for the IRA, and manipulating through factual inaccuracy. Indeed Sheridan's film has been accused of telling lies, of being "in parts a farrago of rubbish". Sheridan thinks the reaction is wholly political and partly conspiratorial. "I can understand it. It's trying to discredit the film because they are afraid of what the film will reveal," he says.

Most detractors have taken Gerard Conlon, one of the Four wrongly imprisoned for the 1974 bombing, as the centre of the story. In fact it is his father, Giuseppe, who died in prison, who fills the heart of the movie.

Jim Sheridan has run into a storm of accusation over his 'Guildford Four' film. Alison Roberts hears his defence

Sheridan stresses this and uses it as a defence. The critics have got his agenda fundamentally wrong, he says. For a start the Guildford Four are not in prison any more. There was no need to make a documentary in an attempt to get them released. "Once you turn on a film camera, you are in a different world. Daniel isn't Gerry Conlon, and the bomb didn't happen in slow motion. No one has to engage with the fact of it any more because the case is never going to be in court again. It's like when Hamlet says: 'The play's the thing wherein to catch the conscience of the King'."

"Hamlet's ghost is hanging around saying 'revenge me'. Now I don't know if Giuseppe Conlon is hanging around saying the same thing. What he did say was 'clear my name'. That is the thing I was trying to do."

In that sense, then, the film is one man's story, only based on fact. "The left-wing has an agenda which is to get the police and nail them. That's not my agenda. I wanted to lift the story out of England/Ireland relations, and the knee-jerk reaction that goes with that, on to an international level."

But Sheridan does want his film

to provoke, to reclaim Giuseppe's name and to "answer" power. This is where the facts become important. Sheridan makes it clear that the power at issue belongs both to the police and the IRA. He is answering for the people caught in the middle. "Most of the time, no light gets into Northern Ireland and the people think that their lives are never endorsed."

Sheridan wants to rekindle some of the outrage felt five years ago when the Guildford Four were released. But he's not out to "get" the Establishment. "I want people to say 'My God, did this story actually happen?' It's not a justice story, it's a human rights story."

But will audiences react like that if he gets the facts wrong? Aren't they let off the hook if the film can be dismissed as fiction? "The spine of the story is true and responsible. We actually went easy on the police and the judiciary. I honestly feel that."

There were frantic scenes in the upper committee corridor of the House of Commons last week. A special screening of the film was arranged for MPs and Gerry Conlon attended to discuss it afterwards. Conlon was patronised by several MPs — one stood up to

praise him for his "unexpected" eloquence. Then a row broke out and Sheridan had to step in. Chris Mullin, one of the MPs much involved in the Guildford Four case but not shown in the film, calmed things down.

Again much was made of the factual inaccuracies. "I wouldn't have let this film be made if it had stigmatised English people," said Conlon. But several politicians, echoing newspaper critics, said that they were particularly worried about reaction in America. They claimed that thousands of Americans, who have probably never heard of the Guildford Four, will see the film, not understand the real-life circumstances of Anglo-Irish relations, and side with the "underdogs" — creating a dangerous new sympathy for the IRA.

Sheridan did, in fact, have dealings with Noraid activists in America. When he ran the Irish Arts Centre in New York they wanted to put up a poster in its theatre. After several refusals, Sheridan let them stick up the "No Rubber Bullets" poster. He says that he argued against the slogan "because the IRA uses real bullets". Noraid apparently argued freedom of speech; Sheridan doesn't think that their publicity works anyway.

However, he admits: "Every single thing to do with Northern Ireland and England has a political reaction — it's been like that for a long time. Sadly." His theatre was used as a vehicle for politics; he should not be surprised that his film has been used in a similar way. Indeed it is clear that his intentions were partly political. He may regret it in both instances, but he cannot deny that, ultimately, his art invites it.



The film's director, Jim Sheridan, thinks the reaction is wholly political and partly conspiratorial

### ARTS BRIEFING

#### Steaming Finns

SO YOU thought the Finnish Institute only organised seminars on sustainable forestry or discussions on "Finnish Overseas Aid: What Now?" You were wrong. From February 24, the institute raises its temperature with a photography show and a brief film series devoted to "The Years of Innocence: Eroticism in Finnish Films".

The steamy selection, showing at the Renou Cinema in London, includes *The White Reindeer* of 1952 (an outbreak of witchcraft in the Lapland snow), *Skin Skin*, a bacchic Silesian piece, and the British premiere of *Leningrad Cowboys Meet Moses*, the latest diversion from Finland's most exportable director, Aki Kaurismäki. Details of the whole season from the Finnish Institute, 35-6 Eagle Street, London WC1 (071-404 3309).

#### Last chance...

THE Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado is famous for a series of astounding and poignant images of workers in South African gold mines. But as his show "Workers: An Anthology of the Industrial Age" at the Festival Hall (071-928 3002) demonstrates, his interest in workers, their splendours and miseries, is worldwide. It has ranged from, for instance, Mediterranean fishermen to the employees of Shanghai bicycle factories.

Sometimes searing, sometimes triumphant, the show is never less than compelling. It runs until Sunday.

DANCE: Nadine Meisner on wheelchair flight and, below, Portuguese pungency

## Can dance, will dance

CandoCo  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Gavin Bryars's richly textured score of the same name, mostly relegates the wheelchair performers to the role of onlookers.

With *Back to Front* with *Slideshow* Claid has stomped in and rudely and loudly knocked over existing categories and received ideas. In their place she introduces the notions of character, aggression, speed and humour. Physical status miraculously ceases to be an issue. The performers are no longer divided accord-

ing to their ability to walk or not; instead, for once, they find themselves defined and separated by their gender. The able-bodied Jodi Singh-Barni intermittently inhabits a wheelchair; he is the disrupter of the cast, a twitzy feather-fetishist who annoys and tickles the others and breaks up their carefully assembled tableaux.

The tremendous David Toole have a wonderful stage rapport which Jodi Falk brings to the fore in *To Please The Desert*. Where Claid offers exhilarating, punchy dynamics, Falk creates intense, still beauty in a duet which some enterpris-

ing film-maker should put on celluloid. The smallest, slowest gesture becomes high drama, set to the dark colours of traditional Spanish music; the dancers etch luminous outlines against Micky Mannion's atmospheric lighting. They dance in unison, brothers in a strange, optical game of sighs and scale: Singh-Barni, tall and athletic; Toole, a third his size but no less athletic, using his arms and hands as the legs and feet he does not have.

*Christy Don't Leave So Soon* by Lea Parkinson and the company's directors, Adam Benjamin and Celeste Dandeker, does not achieve the same potency. But gentle and brief, the piece acts as a clever opener, easing us into the way CandoCo looks and works. And when Dandeker is lifted from her chair to become almost like her partners, that says a great deal about the liberating magic of dance.

her way, I admired how Pereira, like Andermann, treats dance as a magnifying glass for the soul. Dance becomes a medium which cuts performers away from the safety harness of technique and takes them to the brink.

Equally concerned with the human core, Vera Mantero's collectively-created *Sob* lacked the previous pieces' sharp succinctness. It more than over-stayed its welcome, disintegrating into muddle. With her emphasis on props and movement theatre, Mantero was visibly influenced by Pina Bausch; but where Bausch vividly communicates her cast's humanity, Mantero parades a gallery of grotesques. She may have been drawing the familiar connection between madness and the stresses of life. By the end, though, I still wasn't sure and, I'm afraid, I didn't care.

## Red for danger

Portugal  
Contemporâneo  
Tron Theatre,  
Glasgow

the Last Supper: they are convulsed with tears of sorrow or bouts of drunken nausea; they are clown-esque opponents, locked in wrestling holds; they are penitents, dragging themselves on their knees. Their jerky graphic shapes are like a crudely-made cartoon film.

In *Auto Retrato* (Self Portrait) Miguel Pereira uncovers a sensual, feminine strand. At first, he stands rooted to the spot, arms flailing out to the

side like a scarecrow, with only the fragile sound of a music box as company. Red gloves cover his hands which, when he removes his grey jacket, are revealed as a lavish woman's pair extending to his armpits. He caresses his bare torso, he wears a red rose between his teeth.

Soon he is not even wearing the rose. Pereira is a courageous performer who strips away his public clothing and lays himself bare. It is odd but touching how unceremoniously vulnerable a naked man can look. He performs recklessly abandoned leaps and swerves that contrast sharply with the restricted movement of before.

Is this the inner self reveling in its freedom, or giving vent to profound despair? Ei-

## THE TIMES Four Free Classical CDs or Cassettes



Over the next two weeks, *The Times* in association with Conifer Records, is offering readers the opportunity to collect four free CDs or cassettes of great classical music on top quality record labels. The recordings cover four periods of music — Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern — and form an introduction to a music library any one would be proud to own.

This weeks free recording, *Romantic Times*, covers the period from 1826 to 1900 and features the music of ten composers — Schumann, Chopin, Grieg, Paganini, Wagner, Brahms, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Rachmaninov.

#### HOW TO GET YOUR

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To take advantage of this offer, simply collect two tokens from *The Times* (five will be printed, from Monday February 7, to Friday, February 11). When you have collected the two tokens, fix them to the coupon printed in *The Times* on Saturday, February 5. Complete the coupon and

send it to the address (below). If you missed the coupon with a cheque or postal order in *The Times* last Saturday, for £1.98, made payable to February 5, you can still FREE MUSIC, to collect your first, second and third free CD or cassette postage and packaging. Send your application to: *The Times* Classical Collection, coupon this Saturday, with P.O. Box 2002, Romford, full details of how to get offer, simply collect two tokens from *The Times* (five will be printed, from Monday February 7, to Friday, February 11). When you have collected the two tokens, fix them to the coupon printed in *The Times* on Saturday, February 5. Complete the coupon and



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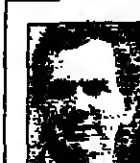


# Disillusioned Latorre regains Midas touch

The World Cup could yet share the delights of a fabled Diego from Buenos Aires. No, not that Diego, Mr Maradona, last seen taking pot shots at journalists with an air rifle, has been dismissed by Newell's Old Boys and among those helping police enquiries is a psychiatrist, who implores Maradona to seek help "before it is too late".

The other Diego — Diego Latorre — comes from the other side of the tracks, the well-to-do European side of Buenos Aires. And he may just have found the Midas touch he mislaid two summers ago. Tenerife, his Spanish club, the curse of Real Madrid in the last two championships, have knocked Real out of the cup after two exceptional goals from Latorre. On Sunday, he hit another winner, this time against Logroñés.

Three goals does not make a career, nor even a comeback. Latorre, 24, was so blessed with balance, movement and quickness of eye that he had scored goals like this once a month in his youth. But his return will register in high places in Argentina. Highly strung and highly bred, his talent had lapsed since the summer of 1991, when he inherited the No 10 shirt of you-know-who at Boca Juniors and



**ROB HUGHES**  
Overseas Football

in the national side. The media dubbed Latorre "The Good Diego" but, recently, wrote mainly of his alleged affair with the daughter of President Carlos Menem.

The head of state has kept footballers at distance since his "sporting ambassador" to the world award to Maradona turned to embarrassment. Menem has even retrained from telling Alfio Basile, the team manager, who to pick. Basile ought to be grateful because in addition to the drug scandals surrounding Maradona, Claudio Caviglioli is serving a ban, which does not end until May, for a similar offence.

Gabriel Batistuta is spending this season with Fiorentina down in the Italian second division while, countering the good news on Latorre, is the bad news for Tenerife concerning another Argentinian, Fernando Redondo, who allegedly settled a training field off with a colleague by putting a second player in hospital with a left, left, right combination.

Tenerife suspended Redondo but reports that Argentina will banish him for life, seem, on past macho criterion, wide of the mark.

It is, after all, the sensitivity in Latorre that many Argentinians doubt. He is slender, 5ft 8in, and has his mother's fine Italian bones, her academic mind and her sporting genes. Mirda Latorre, a teacher of English, thought her son would follow in the tennis footsteps when, at 15, Diego practised with Gabriella Sabatini at Mar Del Plata, where the Latorre family had a country holiday home.

Very different, as you can see, the upbringing of Maradona and Latorre. Yet once the second Diego opted out of his economics course at Belgrano private university, they were subjected to the same vagaries of the sporting life.

When, in the summer of 1991, Latorre was injured, with a broken tooth and an ankle swollen with a blood clot the size of a golf ball, Fiorentina

suddenly switched its attention from him to Batistuta, his Boca Juniors striking partner.

The transfers were embroiled with agents' input and, though the Italian club paid Latorre \$400,000 (about £270,000) while returning him on loan to Boca, the disillusionment understandably set deep into the player.

"The boy has education. The suffering is less if you have education," Pablo Abbatangelo, the Argentine FA secretary, said. Abbatangelo, who profited from the transfers as a director of Boca, dismissed out of hand the thought that education might actually stimulate doubts in a player's mind, might exacerbate the humiliation.

The Latorre family is untypical of Argentine footballing roots. The mother and father of Diego Latorre had planned that summer to give up everything to travel with him to Florence and spend four months ensuring their son settled comfortably and properly into a new culture. Diego had suggested: "Football is very important for the social movement in Argentina. It is opening up the boundaries; the game is in the hopes of all classes."

Can you just hear the other Diego making such a statement?

# Lee presents united front for Manchester City's revival

By Peter Ball

FRANCIS Lee's revolution at Manchester City is going to be a bloodless one — at least for the time being. Instead of blood on the carpet, there were smiles all round and promises of solidarity at Maine Road after the first board meeting of the new regime yesterday morning.

It had been expected that the supporters of Peter Swales, the former chairman, would follow him into the darkness. Instead, Lee proved more interested in bringing in new faces than dispatching existing ones, and the board has been enlarged to 11 to accommodate Lee, John Dunkerley, a Manchester businessman, and Colin Barlow, the new general manager of the club. There will also be a representative of the supporters at board meetings but he will not be allowed to vote.

"There was a magnificent amount of unity," Lee said afterwards. "Everyone backed us to a man. They all individually assured us of their 100 per cent commitment. In the light of that, I thought it was not necessary to make any changes."

The survivors will continue to enjoy their seats in the

directors' box and other privileges, but may find that important decisions have been taken out of their control.

"The plan is to have an executive board containing three or four captains of industry to make the financial decisions," Lee said. He, Colin Barlow and Andrew Thomas, the representative of Greenall Whitley, the club's major shareholder, will make up that board, along with possibly two further members, who are being interviewed this week.

There will be one other familiar face around, Lee confirming yesterday that there will be a role for Mike Summerbee, probably in public relations, if only part-time. With Colin Bell already at the club coaching young players, the famous trio is reassembling.

Finance was the main topic yesterday, with the new board concerned to move on from the view expressed at the general meeting last year of City being run like the corner shop compared to the supermarket across town at Old Trafford.

"Saturday's crowd showed how much support there is," Lee said. "It's one of the best-supported clubs in the country, but the turnover is so low

and we have got to get more money coming in so that we can plough it back and build a bigger and better club."

As a first step, the directors are eager to halt the piecemeal redevelopment of Maine Road and will try to defer the £4 million redevelopment of the



Lee wants solidarity

Kippax Stand for a year. If that is refused, they will seek new tenders for an improved plan to include corporate entertainment facilities and space for families to eat before a match.

"If people are spending £30-£40 taking a family to a football match, it's better that

they can come at 11am and leave at 6pm than come at 2.45 and leave at 5.15," Lee said. "We want to make it the value-for-money football club."

To do that, of course, they may need to play better football, but until the financial reconstruction is in place, Brian Horton will have to soldier on with the players he has. "There will be no new players before Saturday's game with West Ham," Lee said, "but the players were magnificent on Saturday and I'm sure we will win again this week."

Scottish Football Association and Scottish League officials are to discuss a mid-winter break next season, probably from December 3 to 24, to improve the national team's prospects of qualifying for the European championship finals. Scotland play Greece in a qualifier on December 18.

Heart of Midlothian, the Scottish club, yesterday suspended Justin Fashanu, 33, although the club's manager, Sandy Clark, denied the move had anything to do with allegations the player made in a newspaper involving his personal life. Clark insisted that the decision to suspend Fashanu was taken because he had missed training.

# Martin will get run for money

By David Powell  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



First and last training on the streets of London yesterday as Martin is joined by Tina Dorrell, the final runner home in 1993. Photograph: John Manning

EAMONN Martin will defend his NutraSweet London Marathon title on April 17 in an attempt to become the first athlete to win the men's race twice, it was announced yesterday. But, though London loves a British winner, Martin will receive no assistance from David Bedford, the elite field director.

Bedford has assembled tough opposition for Martin, though identities remain secret. "We do not want a British winner at any cost," Bedford said. "London is the No 1 British athletic event; it demands that we get the best athletes. If that makes it harder for there to be a British winner, that is the way it has to be. We have a great field to run against Eamonn."

Bedford, who has the muscle of a £1 million budget, knows the risk he is taking in the name of purity. Television audience figures impress sponsors and, until Martin's 1993 victory, London's Sunday morning live BBC audience had fallen in three successive years to 4.3 million in 1992. Last year's transmission averaged 5.6 million, and the last hour was about 8.3 million, Bedford said. "It peaked towards the end because of the substantial British interest."

Bedford would not discuss Martin's appearance fee but described him as "the most expensive athlete in the men's field". During negotiations, Mel Batty, Martin's manager, would have borne in mind his comment after last year's win that his athlete's worth in 1994 should at least equal the value placed on Liz McColgan.

McColgan was in the first year of a \$500,000 (about £330,000) agreement to run three London Marathons. Martin has a two-year deal and, judging by Batty's remark that "David was in a difficult position because of the deals he had done before", he and Martin have probably softened slightly. A two-year deal of £250,000 seems about right.

# Foulds stops Parrott's progress

NEAL Foulds, successful in only two snooker matches this season, overcame an anxiety that had been steadily building for a couple of months to beat John Parrott, the world No 2, 5-3 in the second round of the £415,000 Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Foulds, who has plummeted to 33rd in the provisional world rankings, compiled a highest break of only 50 but, crucially, he snatched the third frame on the black with a 41 clearance and the fifth on the pink, thanks to a late run of 40.

"It's been so long since I played a match and that gives you much too much time to think and dwell on things. That's why I was so nervous," Foulds said.

Foulds had not been engaged in

competition since the European Open in mid-December, an event where Parrott heard the news that Potters Snooker Club in Liverpool, his practice base, had burnt down.

"That's been another blow to my routine," Parrott said. He is also coming to grips with the demands of fatherhood for the first time.

After predicting that he would defeat Stephen Hendry in the 1992 Dubai Classic and losing 5-2, Peter Ebdon became more measured in his pre-match comments. That is, until yesterday.

Ebdon, who proved that he is a genuine force in leading events by capturing the grand prize title last October, displayed his old ebullience after including breaks of 84, 112 and 65 during a 5-1 first-round

victory over David Roe, of Derby. Ebdon, who faces Steve Davis for a place in the quarter-finals tonight, said: "I've got no dangers here. It's just a matter of me respecting everyone and fearing no one. I reckon that I can go all the way."

Ebdon, who beat Davis 10-4 in his first season as a professional to reach the last 16 of the 1992 world championship, added: "This place gives me the same buzz as the Crucible."

Buzz or not, Ebdon has a formidable task against Davis, who is on a high following his Welsh Open triumph on Saturday. Since their Crucible meeting two years ago, Davis has won all four of their encounters.

RESULTS: First round: Ebdon (Eng) 5-1, Parrott (Wls) 5-3, Foulds (Eng) 5-3, Foulds (Eng) 5-3.

## FOR THE RECORD

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

HONOLULU: Pro Bowl: National Conference 17 American Conference 3.

### BASKETBALL

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic division

W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	12	0
Orlando	12	12	0
Miami	12	12	0
Charlotte	12	12	0
Washington	12	12	0
Philadelphia	12	12	0
Boston	12	12	0
Atlanta	12	12	0
Indiana	12	12	0
Cleveland	12	12	0
Chicago	12	12	0
Memphis	12	12	0
San Antonio	12	12	0
Phoenix	12	12	0
Portland	12	12	0
Utah	12	12	0
Los Angeles	12	12	0
Golden State	12	12	0
San Diego	12	12	0
Seattle	12	12	0
Phoenix	12	12	0
Portland	12	12	0
Utah	12	12	0
Los Angeles	12	12	0
Golden State	12	12	0
San Diego	12	12	0
Seattle	12	12	0

### CRICKET

RED STRIPES: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 435 (S. Ramdin 100, M. Ramdin 100, J. Ramdin 100, K. Ramdin 100, L. Ramdin 100, P. Ramdin 100, R. Ramdin 100, S. Ramdin 100, T. Ramdin 100, U. Ramdin 100, V. Ramdin 100, W. Ramdin 100, X. Ramdin 100, Y. Ramdin 100, Z. Ramdin 100).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Barbados and Guyana 78 (B. Ramdin 100, C. Ramdin 100, D. Ramdin 100, E. Ramdin 100, F. Ramdin 100, G. Ramdin 100, H. Ramdin 100, I. Ramdin 100, J. Ramdin 100, K. Ramdin 100, L. Ramdin 100, M. Ramdin 100, N. Ramdin 100, O. Ramdin 100, P. Ramdin 100, Q. Ramdin 100, R. Ramdin 100, S. Ramdin 100, T. Ramdin 100, U. Ramdin 100, V. Ramdin 100, W. Ramdin 100, X. Ramdin 100, Y. Ramdin 100, Z. Ramdin 100).

TOUR MATCHES: England 200 and 200-4 (R. Ramdin 100, S. Ramdin 100, T. Ramdin 100, U. Ramdin 100, V. Ramdin 100, W. Ramdin 100, X. Ramdin 100, Y. Ramdin 100, Z. Ramdin 100).

THOMSON 77; Pakistan 485-8 dec. Match drawn.

### FENCING

COMMONWEALTH: World Cup event: 1. L. Ramdin (G); 2. M. Ramdin (F); equal 3. M. Ramdin (G); 4. R. Ramdin (F). Best British fencer, K. Ramdin.

### HOCKEY

CRYSTAL PALACE: English women's indoor championship: 1. G. Ramdin (G); 2. S. Ramdin (G); 3. T. Ramdin (G); 4. U. Ramdin (G); 5. V. Ramdin (G); 6. W. Ramdin (G); 7. X. Ramdin (G); 8. Y. Ramdin (G); 9. Z. Ramdin (G); 10. A. Ramdin (G); 11. B. Ramdin (G); 12. C. Ramdin (G); 13. D. Ramdin (G); 14. E. Ramdin (G); 15. F. Ramdin (G); 16. G. Ramdin (G); 17. H. Ramdin (G); 18. I. Ramdin (G); 19. J. Ramdin (G); 20. K. Ramdin (G); 21. L. Ramdin (G); 22. M. Ramdin (G); 23. N. Ramdin (G); 24. O. Ramdin (G); 25. P. Ramdin (G); 26. Q. Ramdin (G); 27. R. Ramdin (G); 28. S. Ramdin (G); 29. T. Ramdin (G); 30. U. Ramdin (G); 31. V. Ramdin (G); 32. W. Ramdin (G); 33. X. Ramdin (G); 34. Y. Ramdin (G); 35. Z. Ramdin (G); 36. A. Ramdin (G); 37. B. Ramdin (G); 38. C. Ramdin (G); 39. D. Ramdin (G); 40. E. Ramdin (G); 41. F. Ramdin (G); 42. G. Ramdin (G); 43. H. Ramdin (G); 44. I. Ramdin (G); 45. J. Ramdin (G); 46. K. Ramdin (G); 47. L. Ramdin (G); 48. M. Ramdin (G); 49. N. Ramdin (G); 50. O. Ramdin (G); 51. 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# England wait to engage real enemy

SO FAR, this Caribbean tour has been an ice cream war. For more than three weeks, the England party has camped in paradise beach resorts and engaged in well-intentioned but scarcely relevant preliminaries while the real enemy has lurked out of sight, watching and waiting.

In 11 days of competitive cricket, England have not met one opponent likely to feature in the international games, which begin here next Wednesday. This was not their choice, and they can do no more than win against the opposition offered, but there is a cautious, unspoken awareness that they have beaten nothing of note yet.

Locally, these phoney exercises have begun to attract resentment. Antiguaners are passionately proud of their Test cricketers and there was a

widespread expression of dismay that their only glimpse of them, while a depleted Leeward Islands team was being beaten, came on Saturday when Curtly Ambrose and Winston Benjamin joined the throng dancing to deafening reggae music in the St John's ground's village of homespun refreshment shacks.

The locals believe the touring team has had it too easy, although one or two of the England batsmen will beg to differ. Matthew Maynard and Nasser Hussain have still not made a score of substance and Keith Fletcher, the team manager, admitted yesterday: "There are always one or two who miss out early on and then it becomes harder for them. No matter how long you have at the start of a tour, it is never quite long enough to achieve your ideals."



Alan Lee reports on how the West Indies continue to plot well away from prying eyes

The tour will engage second gear for the four-day game against Barbados, which starts on Thursday. Desmond Haynes has no plans to play but the island attack will include four fast bowlers on the fringe of the Test side, including Andy Cummins, also of Durham, and Otis Gibson, soon to be of Glamorgan.

Gibson took five cheap wickets against Trinidad last week and is also a ferocious hitter in the lower order. He is a candidate for the limited-overs side and it is likely that David Holford, the West Indies chairman of selectors, will learn more this week than

he did while sitting through the match in Antigua. Holford, however, is going through the motions. There is no expectation of anything unfamiliar in the teams he will name for the first Test and one-day matches. The key men are in form, none more so than Brian Lara, whose double century against Barbados at the weekend set a Red Stripe Cup record of 715 runs in a season.

The vulnerable positions are those occupied at present by Phil Simmons, Junior Murray and Kenny Benjamin. Simmons' technique is ill-suited to opening and he has not

been helped by a recent finger injury. Murray is a stop-gap as wicketkeeper and Benjamin is the junior fast bowler, susceptible to challenges from the likes of Gibson, Vasbert Drakes, his fellow Barbadian, or Franklyn Rose, of Jamaica.

There is even a call, not least from Sir Garfield Sobers, for West Indies to temper their dependence on pace. Sobers, recently elected to the West Indies board, explained: "I hear it said that we don't have any spinners around worthy of their place but they can't prove themselves unless they have the opportunity. It may be time to give spin the chance it hasn't had for so long."

Four years ago, Robert Haynes, a talented, leg-spinning all-rounder, was the coming man, confidently tipped to bewitch England. Instead, the series contained not a single

over of spin and Haynes disappeared without trace.

England are far more likely to include a slow bowler when it matters. Nothing that has happened to date has discouraged that belief, nor the associated conviction that Jack Russell should keep wicket. However, as Alec Stewart is sure to do the job in one-day games, it would be sensible for them to share the gloves during the Barbados match.

More immediately, Andy Caddick is to have his sore right shin scanned in a Bridgetown hospital this morning. If the feared stress fracture is confirmed, his tour, begun with such poise and assertiveness, will be over. "They say we all have to suffer some pain to get anywhere in this life," he said yesterday. "I just wish it wasn't me just now."



David Johnson, secretary of the World Bowls Board, holds up the Master Bowl, which sits in state at the WBB headquarters at Worthing

## Charges of bias divide the world of bowls

A question of bias has arisen in the world of bowls. In Australia, British manufacturers have been accused of producing bowls that are illegal before they come out of the box. Bias, a common complaint in sport, is at the centre of the problem. Not that there is too much of it; rather that there is too little. In the bowls themselves.

Out of 56 sets of bowls tested before the Australian championships in November, 20 failed to meet the standard of the Master Bowl, which sits in state at the headquarters of the World Bowls Board (WBB) in Worthing.

The Master Bowl is not the ideal bowl. It merely sets a standard. In fact, it falls down on the very quality that encapsulates the essence of the sport. It is short on bias. No bowl is allowed to be straight. Every bowl must bend as it rolls as much as — if not more than — the Master.

David Rhys Jones reports on a new dispute that threatens to have far-reaching effects

Indeed, while the Master Bowl remains in Worthing, slave copies, called Standard Bowls, are used to test all bowls rolling off the production line all over the world before they can receive the WBB stamp of approval.

The skill — indeed the beauty — of the game lies in the swing. There is an aesthetic pleasure in watching a bowl curve to its resting place near the jack. It is neither a flick of the wrist that makes the bowl curve nor the insertion of a weight, but merely the asymmetrical shape of the bowl itself.

"Bowls is all about bias, and narrow running bowls are spoiling the game," players often say — but most will nevertheless purchase a set of minimum bias bowls to give

themselves an equal chance. It is, after all, easier to judge a line to the jack if it is drawn in a shallow curve than if the arc is exaggerated.

Manufacturers report a huge demand for straighter bowls, and are making them much closer to the legal limit than ever before. Bowls cost up to £140 per set of four, however, and, although customers ask for bowls of minimum bias, they do not want them to be ruled illegal.

It is ironic that sniping at British bowls should come from Australia. The game was born in Britain. Think of Sir Francis Drake, and Dr W. G. Grace, who founded the English Bowling Association in 1903. Standards were set here, and even the Master Bowl, which has undergone subtle

changes in definition over the years, has always been produced by Thomas Taylor, a Glasgow firm founded in 1796.

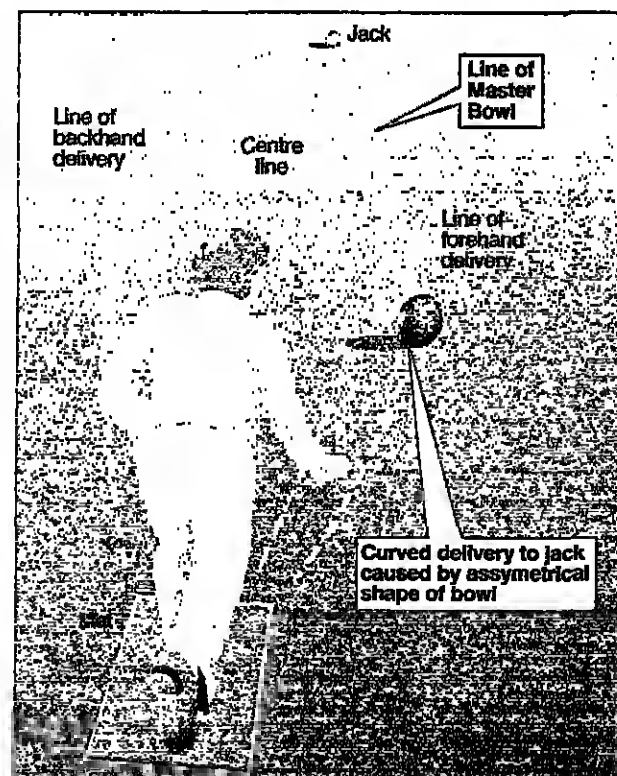
Bruce Hensell, the managing director of the Melbourne firm that pioneered the making of composition (heavy density plastic) woods, revolutionising bowls manufacture in the 1930s, suggests that imported (ie British) bowls do not bend enough.

He claims to have tested 32 sets of bowls before a recent inter-state match between Victoria and South Australia. "Around half the bowls we tested were imported, and about half of those failed the test," he said. "We have also tested newly imported bowls taken out of the box at various retail outlets, and found them to be illegal."

Understandably, British manufacturers, who are making inroads in the Australian market — Drakes Pride (Liverpool) claim a 12 per cent share, Thomas Taylor a further five per cent — strenuously deny the charge. They point to differences in testing conditions as a possible explanation for their bowls' performance in Australia.

"British bowls describe a gradual curve, the shape of a banana," Peter Clare, of Drakes Pride, explained. "Australian bowls tend to run straight but hook sharply at the finish. The end result is the same but, on some test tables, they can appear to behave differently."

To add to the confusion, a Standard Bowl, supposedly a



### A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BOWL

WOODS used to be made of wood: *lignum vitae* (the wood of life) from the West Indies, the heaviest (densest) wood in the world. Now they are made of a composition based on a phenol formaldehyde powder. More stable of course, but less romantic than wood. Bowls come in a range of sizes, from 4 1/16 inches (104mm) to 5 1/16 inches (131mm) in diameter. There is no longer any weight restriction.

A legend suggests it was the Duke of Suffolk, Charles Brandon, who "discovered" bias during a high society game of bowls at Goole, Yorkshire, in 1522, when someone put up a fast one and cracked a bowl. The Duke ran indoors to the grand hall, sawed off the round

end of a bannister and the game continued. It is more likely that the first biased bowls were the "half bowls", used to play a kind of skittles in the 15th century, and described by Fitzstephen in 1477 as a "perfect hemisphere". Robert Recorde, a mathematician, declared in 1556 that "a little altering of the one side maketh the bowl to run bias-wise", and William Shakespeare used the path of the biased bowl as a metaphor for life. In *Richard II*, act III, scene IV, the Queen reacts wearily to an invitation to play bowls in the Duke of York's garden. "I will make me think the world is full of rubs and that my fortune runs against the bias," she says.

## Kerrigan case puts spotlight on Olympic security

By NICHOLAS GEORGE

ALMOST one third of the Norwegian police force, 40 kilometres of security fencing and a unique computer system are among the measures being employed to protect competitors and VIPs at the Winter Olympics Games, which begin in Lillehammer on Saturday.

The attack on Nancy Kerrigan, the American skater, may have surprised those who regarded winter sports as a gentle backwater, but in Norway it has helped to justify the large-scale security operation around Lillehammer's Olympic venues, where policing costs alone are set at around £30 million.

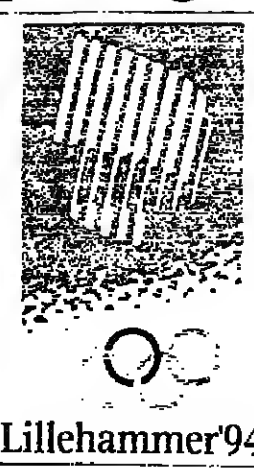
Already, residents in the picturesque valley that surrounds the town have become used to the sight of sniffer dogs on the mountainsides, with police strengths in the area increasing from a normal 80 officers to almost 3,000. Certainly, there is no difficulty in drawing up a

credible list of those who may wish to disrupt the Games, ranging from individual fanatics to environmentalists angered by Norway's resumption of commercial whaling.

In many European countries, successful winter sports participants can rank alongside football players and track athletes in star status and, in the case of figure skating and some Alpine skiing events, Olympic gold medals can be converted into substantial amounts in advertising and appearance fees.

Odd Ustad, a spokesman for the Lillehammer Olympic Committee (LOC), said the Kerrigan incident, in which the skater was struck on her right knee by an attacker, underlined the "strict precautions we have planned will be needed".

According to chief inspector Paul Fivel, LOC's security manager, these involved the committee providing a security staff of 1,500 people aided by 300 closed-circuit television cameras and 600 automatic alarm systems.



Lillehammer'94

All the venues have been divided into zones, which will prevent spectators, competitors, journalists and site workers from mixing.

However, the dilemma for the Norwegians has been how to protect competitors while allowing specta-

tors proper access to what the nation expects to be a festival of sport. Fivel says organisers were determined not to place competitors in a cage. In most cases, wire fencing has been avoided, replaced by what Fivel calls "smooth fencing", made of wood and painted in suitable colours. From early on in the Games' planning, the exact positioning and height of these barriers was considered with spectators in mind.

Top of the list of threats remains Middle Eastern terrorist groups, especially following Norway's role in brokering the peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. Indeed, a twist of history links Lillehammer with the murders of 11 Israeli athletes at the Games in Munich in the summer of 1972. In 1973, an Israeli hit squad shot dead a Moroccan waiter in Lillehammer, mistaking him for one of the guerrillas involved in the Munich massacre.

For the Games, Norway's police force has been equipped with a new

communications system and computers that automatically check through all Norwegian police files whenever a name is entered. Police cars have been fitted with a satellite tracking system that allows officers to pinpoint the location of vehicles throughout the area.

An air traffic control zone has been put in place above Lillehammer to stop the show-stealing antics of paragliders such as James "Fan Man" Miller. Miller, who yesterday appeared in court accused of landing on Buckingham Palace, had previously interrupted the Evander Holyfield v Riddick Bowe world heavyweight title bout in Las Vegas by floating into the open-air arena.

The Norwegian authorities have also set up a special anti-terrorist squad to protect visiting VIPs. Yet, for all the security, Fivel accepts that no system is foolproof. "You can never be 100 per cent sure... maybe the competitor's trainer will be the attacker," he said.

### SPORTS BRIEF

## Webster selected for Wales squad

RICHARD Webster, who has yet to complete a full senior rugby league match since turning professional with Salford five months ago, was included yesterday in the Wales training squad for the international against France next month (Christopher Irvine writes). He is one of three newcomers in the squad of 21 which holds out hope for the future of the Wales team, just as age was catching up with some of the players.

Daio Powell, of Bradford Northern, and Mark Perrett, of Halifax, both Great Britain under-21 internationals, who qualify by Welsh parentage, are real bonuses, particularly as they have opted to play for Wales instead of England in the Centenary World Cup next year.

Wales squad: A. Bevan (Warrington), G. Girdle (Bradford Northern), J. Davies (Warrington), J. Davies (Warrington), R. Ellis (Warrington), P. Ford (Salford), J. Girdle (Bradford Northern), A. Haynes (Warrington), M. Jones (Warrington), I. Marlow (Warrington), P. Morris (Warrington), G. Pearce (Sheff Wed), M. Powell (Halifax), R. Powell (Sheff Wed), G. Powell (Bradford Northern), A. Sullivan (St Helens), R. Webster (Salford), S. Williams (Cardiff), P. Williams (Salford), O. Young (Salford).

## Douglas earns recall

TABLE TENNIS: Desmond Douglas, 38, yesterday became the oldest player to be included in an England squad when he was selected for the European championships in Birmingham next month. Douglas, English champion a record 11 times, retired from international competition four years ago but is unbeaten in the British league this season and has climbed to No 2 in the English rankings.

Douglas gained the sixth and last place behind Chen Xinhua, Carl Preen, Matthew Syed, Alan Cooke and Andrew Eden. The women's squad comprises Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon, Kate Goodall, Nicola Deaton and Sally Marling.

## Prize-money rises

GOLF: Prize-money at the Open Championship this year has been raised by £100,000 more than in 1993 to a record level, £1.1 million. The first prize of £100,000 and second prize of £88,000 show increases of ten per cent.

George McGregor has been reappointed non-playing captain of the Great Britain and Ireland team in the St Andrews Trophy at Chantilly on June 24 and 25, the EGA Trophy at Golf de Pau, Holland, on August 5 and 6 and the Eisenhower Trophy at Le Golf National and La Baulie, Versailles, from October 6 to 9.

## Albania first and last

FOOTBALL: Wales will begin and end their 1996 European championship qualifying campaign with matches against Albania, a country they have never played. Their pivotal fixtures in group seven come in the five months from December this year, when they meet Bulgaria, the third seeds, in successive matches before taking on Germany, the world champions.

Wales schedule: September 7, 1994: Albania (H), October 12: Moldova (A), November 16: Georgia (A), December 14: Bulgaria (H), March 28, 1995: Bulgaria (A), April 26: Germany (A), June 7: Georgia (H), September 6: Moldova (H), October 11: Germany (H), November 15: Albania (H).

## Final appearance

REAL TENNIS: Sheila McIntosh, the former England squash captain, and Thane Warburg reached the final of the George Wimpey British mixed doubles championship, putting out the powerful partnership of Mandy Hapell, the Elyport professional, and Marcus Ward 6-5. McIntosh and Warburg played intelligent tactical tennis, taking the pace off their hard-hitting opponents' most powerful shots, and now meet Melissa Briggs and Jerome Fletcher, who put out last year's winner, Margaret Allici, and her new partner, Barry Clive.

## Aldershot home again

FOOTBALL: Aldershot Town were given their sixth home tie — out of seven — when paired at home against Atherton Laburnum Rovers, leaders of the Bass North-West Counties League, in the draw for the quarter-finals of the FA Vase yesterday. Aldershot's Diadora League second division rivals, Newbury Town, must travel to Taunton Town. Triverton Town, last season's beaten Vase finalists, must travel to Norfolk to play Diss Town.

Draw: Aldershot Town v Atherton LR; Arlesey Town v Boston; Diss Town v Triverton Town; Taunton Town v Newbury Town. Ties to be played on February 28.

## Yorkshire profit

CRICKET: Yorkshire yesterday reported a record profit of £257,679 for last year, but have reduced that figure by investing £134,000 to convert former dressing-rooms into a sponsors' area at Headingley. Club membership increased to 8,259 with subscriptions rising £340,851, but the main source of income was £698,042 from the Test and County Cricket Board. Nottinghamshire announced a record profit of £120,445 for 1993, reaping the benefits of an Australian summer. Trent Bridge staged one Test, helping the club to increase its income by more than £250,000.

## Hebert propels NFC

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Bobby Hebert completed a scoring pass and led the National Conference (NFC) past the American Conference 17-3 in Honolulu on Sunday in the Pro Bowl, the last game of the National Football League season. Hebert, of Atlanta, replaced the injured Phil Simms, of the New York Giants, and Troy Aikman, who led Dallas to victory in the Super Bowl nine days ago. Aikman, concussed in the NFC final against San Francisco, is suffering from double vision and injuries to his knees, elbow, back and shoulder but will not require surgery.

### SNOW REPORTS


	Depth (cm)	U	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	C	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Isch	0	75	good	varied	closed	snow	4 31/1
Obertauern	100	145	good	powder	good	fine	-1 7/2
Schladming	40	150	good	heavy	slush	fine	11 31/1
							(Good snow but warm weather bringing heavy conditions)
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	130	220	good	varied	good	fine	-4 26/1
Chamonix	50	360	good	varied	fair	fair	3 29/1
							(Hard-packed snow on piste holding up well)
La Plagne	145	300	good	crust	good	fine	2 28/1
Tignes	180	290	good	powder	good	fine	-8 5/2
							(Excellent skiing on and off piste)
Val Thorens	140	300	good	varied	good	fine	-1 28/1
							(Good skiing on all pistes though becoming icy)
ITALY							
Cortina	25	130	good	powder	good	sunny	2 6/2
							(Good skiing on all pistes after fresh snow)
Corvara	120	230	good	varied	closed	sun	0 4/2
							(Recent fresh snow giving good skiing)
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	85	100	good	crust	good	snow	0 7/2
							(Fresh snow on hard base giving improving piste skiing)
Grindelwald	5	100	fair	crust	warm	fog	2 28/1
							(Good snow cover still maintained on upper slopes)
Mürren	40	130	good	varied	fair	fog	-1 6/2
							(Tricky skiing below 2,500 metres because of fog)
Villars	30	160	fair	varied	poor	fog	3 28/1
							(Low cloud mars good skiing above 1,500 metres)
Wengen	20	80	fair	varied	warm	fog	3 28/1
							(Upper runs in good condition but warm lower down)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; an - artificial



## SUMMERS 1

6.35 **Jays and the Wheeled Warriors** (r) (6320576)  
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (45353)  
**9.00 Sabotage**. Women-only quiz show (s) (60021)  
**9.30 Schools Eureka! Discovering Japan** (5836932)  
**9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (5898175) **10.00 Fourways**  
 Japan (9614789) **10.10 Living with Technology**  
 (4762685) **10.27 Timeslides** (9054021) **10.44 Living**  
 and Growing (1185086) **11.00 Science in Focus**  
 (9054021) **11.22 The World** (7798224) **11.40 How**  
 We Used to Live (3856934)  
**12.00 House to House** with Maya Evans (80885)  
**12.30 Sessame Street**. The guest is actor Rick Moranis  
 (37408) **1.30 Alfred J. Kwak**. Animated adventures  
 of a musical duck (r) (69021)  
**2.00 FILM: Pipeline Parade** (1936, b/w). Musical  
 comedy featuring Judy Garland in her film debut. A  
 hitchhiker becomes the unlikely hero of a college  
 football team. Directed by David Butler (501750)  
**3.40 Call Waiting**. A woman awaits the result of a job  
 interview (936392)  
**3.55 A Brush with Art**. Alwyn Crawshaw demonstrates  
 how to combine pencil and paint (r). (TeleText)  
 (6897040)  
**4.30 Countdown**. Richard Whitley hosts the words  
 and numbers game show (TeleText) (s) 408)  
**5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show**. America's favourite  
 African-American talker to stars who feel they can no  
 longer pursue their chosen profession because they  
 are in fear of their lives. (TeleText) (s)  
**5.50 Laurel and Hardy**. Animated antics of the comic  
 couple (634069) **5.50 Batman**. The dynamic duo  
 face death by candlewax (601)  
**6.30 Gamesmaster** with Dexter Fletcher and Patrick  
 Moore (s) (853)  
**7.00 Channel 4 News**. (TeleText) Weather (181243)  
**7.50 Comment** (TeleText) (336598)  
**8.00 Grow Your Greens**. Sophie Gongson on growing  
 organic vegetables (r). (TeleText) (5021)  
**9.30 Wild Britain: The Trial of Peter Rabbit**. Ian  
 Carmichael tells the tale following a year in the  
 life of a family of rabbits in Wimpole Warren,  
 Cambridgeshire (r). (TeleText) (8156)  
**9.00 [Choice] Undercover Britain: Preying on**  
**[Choice] Hope**. (TeleText) (5224)  
**9.30 Karachi Kops: Touch of Evil**. In the last of the  
 documentary series following the work of the  
 Pakistani police force, three suspects are brought in  
 for questioning and it emerges that a murder was  
 committed for the equivalent of £20-£30. (TeleText)  
 (10514)



**Young blacks reach for the skies (10.40pm)**

**0.40 [CHOICE] Network First: Nightfighters (Teletext 8941175)**

**1.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7606382)**

**2.30am The Beat.** Includes music from Eugenius (s) (85737)

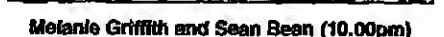
**3.30 FILM: Return Trip to Death (1985)** A man discovers his wife has been leading a bizarre double life when she falls into a coma after a car accident. Directed by Hans-Jürgen Tögel. German film with English dialogue (35625)

**4.30 America's Top Ten (s) (89408)**

**5.00 The Little Picture Show (r) (73267)**

**6.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (r) (43644)**

**6.30 DD Morning News (32118). Ends at 6.50**

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

**TNT**  
 Thea's Ancestry to Lones Tundra  
 7:00p. Bachelor in Paradise (1961)  
 Agency on Bob Hope settles in a rich  
 nostalgia (1934) (1427)  
 9:05 Hefty Man (1941, plat) A comical  
 tells for the laughter of a lake purge With  
 Clark Gable (1939) (1086)  
 11:05 Homecoming (1948, plat) Africa  
 changes society's notion of life (1938) (1428)  
 11:55 Sam and Alvin (1961) The Yea (1942)  
 b/w: War reporters are reunited with the girl  
 they once fought over (1937) (131)  
 3:50 The Who Yea Young (1948, plat)  
 Colleagues meet in secret to send the wish  
 of their boss (1977) (1025). Ends at 4:40

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CLASSIC J M 100-102



## SPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8 1994

Rutherford calls for select group to set standard

## England seek referees' panel

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF ENGLAND have contributed to "incredible theatre" in their last three matches, as Don Rutherford claimed yesterday, they remain unhappy with the director — the referee, or at least, the refereeing rather than specific individuals.

However, Rutherford, technical director of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), finds little support in his search for rugby union's equivalent to cricket's international panel of umpires. He would like to see a select group of referees be made responsible for all leading international matches, thus laying down a universal standard for others to follow.

"We don't mind if we are not in it," Rutherford said yesterday as he reviewed England's nerve-racking five nations' championship win over Scotland. "Let's work from a central base and agree on how key areas of

the game are to be refereed." But the concept has met with resistance from within the five nations as well as without, presumably from countries who do not see themselves as playing a role in such a core group.

Rutherford has come to the conclusion that the principal of sending referees from one hemisphere to another has not worked. "The referee is fundamental to everything that international teams try to do but it's a total lottery at that level with refereeing as it is at the moment," he said. "The difference between sides may come down to the referee's interpretation and who adapts to it quickest."

He was not criticising Lindsay McLachlan, the New Zealander who handled the Calcutta Cup match on Saturday, but the effect that inconsistent standards had on team preparation. England's other games this season will be handled by a Frenchman, an Irishman and a Scot. Their next match, against Ireland at Twickenham on February 19, will be refereed by Patrick Thomas, of France, who is new to their panel this season.

Robert Horner, chairman of the RFU's referees sub-committee, said that unions had been instructed by the five nations' committee to appoint their best officials. "There was a rider that if that meant one man doing more than one game, so be it," Horner added.

## ENGLAND SQUAD

BACKS: J. Callard (Bath), I. Hunter (Northampton), R. Underwood (Leicester), T. Underwood (Leicester), W. Carling (Hartpury), P. de Garmille (Bath), M. Catt (Bath), R. Andrew (Worcester), S. Barnes (Bath), K. Bracken (Bristol), D. Morris (Oxford)

FORWARDS: J. Leonard (Leicester), G. Rowntree (Leicester), V. Ubbro (Bath), G. Dawes (Bath), G. Moore (Hartpury), M. Bayfield (Northampton), M. Johnson (Leicester), N. Redman (Bath), N. Bax (Leicester), B. Clarke (Bath), J. Hall (Bath), S. Ojomah (Bath), T. Rodder (Northampton)

enham on February 19, will be refereed by Patrick Thomas, of France, who is new to their panel this season.

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England have added three players

to the match squad used last weekend for training at Twickenham this weekend in preparation for the Irish, whose team will be announced tomorrow evening. Tim Rodder, Ian Hunter and Nigel Redman will all put pressure on specific individuals if they can prove their fitness which, in the case of the Northampton pair, Rodder and Hunter, may be in doubt.

Redman came through the A international against Italy while the best news for England over the weekend was the 86-17 win achieved by their emerging players over the Spanish national side which will play Wales in May for a place in the World Cup. That represents the highest score by a senior English representative team, exceeding the B XV's 66-4 victory over North Otago in 1992 and the 66-5 victory by the A XV over Spain last year.

The emerging players have lost their fixture next month with South

Africa B, who have cancelled their two-match visit because of a clash with domestic commitments. However, Canada A will fill the gap with two matches in Wales and three in England. The tour climax will be against the emerging players at Richmond on March 20, and the countries will meet again, probably at Bath, on December 6 before the full England-Canada international four days later.

The RFU, whose new East Stand at Twickenham will be officially opened by the Queen before the 100th match with Wales, on March 19, has returned £3.5 million to supporters who could not be accommodated in home championship matches this season.

Each gate of 68,000 is worth £1.4 million in receipts, although the union's refurbishment of the ground, for which they are finalising a loan of £30 million, will keep them in debt for up to ten years.

Stewards at  
Henley  
tell crews  
to 'play  
the game'By JOHN GOODBODY  
AND MIKE ROSEWELL

THE Stewards at Henley Royal Regatta yesterday warned crews that they would be barred from events if they continued entering competitions below their standard of rowing — a practice that has increased in recent years.

Mike Sweeney, their chairman, said: "We are intent on stopping pot-hunting. We have a clear view of our objective — to allow good racing between crews of an equal standard within each event."

The committee of the regatta, which last year attracted 457 crews, the third highest in its 155-year history, is worried that crews have opted to take part in one of the less glamorous events, because they are likely to survive longer in the five-day competition.

Three events, the Thames for eights, the Wyfold for coxed fours and the Britannia for coxed fours, have often brought entries from oarsmen, who prefer them to the stiffer opposition encountered in the Grand and Ladies Plate for eights, the Stewards' for coxed fours and the Prince Philip for coxed fours.

The Stewards have circularised clubs telling them to "play the game", adding that they are not now prepared to see Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race oarsmen, nor American heavyweight varsity oarsmen, rowing for the Thames, Wyfold or Britannia cups.

Sweeney said that the Stewards would initially use "persuasion" and "advice". Only in the last resort was there a threat that an entry would be refused.

Brawling  
boxers  
are each  
fined  
£10,000By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Bentt, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, and his challenger, Herbie Hide, of Norwich, were fined £10,000 each yesterday by the British Boxing Board of Control for brawling at a Knightsbridge hotel on January 10.

Both parties complained that the fine, which must be paid 14 days before their bout takes place at Millwall Football Club on March 19, was too high and they would be appealing against it.

Barry Hearn, Hide's manager, said that if the appeal failed, he would pay the fine for his boxer. Bentt, who is in Las Vegas, was represented by a London lawyer, Jonathan Barnett, who said the board had over-reacted.

John Morris, the secretary of the board, said the board considered both Hide and Bentt to be equally to blame. "The gravity of their action is such that the board is imposing a heavy fine on each of them, namely £10,000 each," he said. "We would warn Mr Hide that, should he behave in a similar manner in future, the board would have no alternative but to remove his licence. We have had the advantage of having a representative of the WBO with us and we are assured that if Mr Bentt should conduct himself in a similar manner in the future, the WBO would strongly consider similar action."

More than 12 million viewers watched the live ITV coverage of the WBO super-middleweight championship bout between Chris Eubank and Graziano Rocchiccioli on Saturday.



Sandie Lister, left, and Julian Halls celebrate their selection as hockey players of the year at Knebworth House yesterday. Photograph: Martin Beckett

## Well-timed reminder of sport's lost innocence

Perhaps it was a vision of the way sport was supposed to be. Sun, a stately home, a stag-thrugged park, a smiling woman with a pink suit and a sporty haircut, a smiling chap with equally neat suit and an equally sporty haircut.

Receiving rose bowls with grace and without awkwardness, the male and the female hockey player of the year: Sandie Lister and Julian Halls. Also a hundred quid each, but they had to give it to a hockey charity, they being amateurs.

The do as at Knebworth House in Hertfordshire, the lunch attended by various decent sorts. A light garnish of press and television, but nothing to which the most fastidious could object. All terribly

nice. And maybe sport was supposed to be like that: a lovely day and no rancour and no bitterness.

I was at another amateur sport at the weekend, the shattering game of rugby union in Dublin, played at terrifying intensity. Tears in Dublin for the Irish, heart-scalding for poor Eric Elwood, tears in Edinburgh for poor Gavin Hastings — all before the eyes of millions and the roaring voices of tens of thousands.

Was sport supposed to be so crazy and so intense a spectacle for so many people? It was not. Not that I would for an instant question the commitment, the dedication of the pair of hockey players honoured yesterday. Both main daily, two-hour squad

Simon Barnes meets the hockey  
players of the year on a sunny  
afternoon in Hertfordshire

session weekly; full match Saturday and Sunday. Both must fold these commitments around a professional life. Lister is a teacher, Halls a courier with DHL.

Being a courier with DHL is not, one imagines, a soul-filling job, but Halls is delighted with it. "They've been very good to me," he said. They will give him time off to prepare for and, God willing, play in the next World Cup in Australia at the end of the year.

"Hockey is what I do. It's what I've always done. Of course my family, my little

boy, comes first, but everything revolves around hockey. What little social life we have is to do with hockey. There's no time to go away, of course."

Hockey is fulfilment, a vehicle for excellence. Perhaps that is something sports were supposed to be as well: "I have an affinity for hockey. I like to play my own way, to be an individual in a team sport."

He is a defender with a taste for confrontation: "I like to be direct, physical, strong. I like the personal battles."

Hockey is not messing about. Lister said: "I like to

think I am committed. A determined player. I like to win. I don't like to lose too much. I like to get involved. You have to be committed to your training. You have to be committed to the idea of doing well."

Yet all this commitment and dedication and determination comes without the craziness we know from big-time sport. No televised tears of the Gazzas and Gavins. This is not Linford and Tessa; not Steffi and Boris. This is Julian and Sandie and never mind if you've forgotten them by then, they'll be playing their guts out for various dreams and ambitions next weekend.

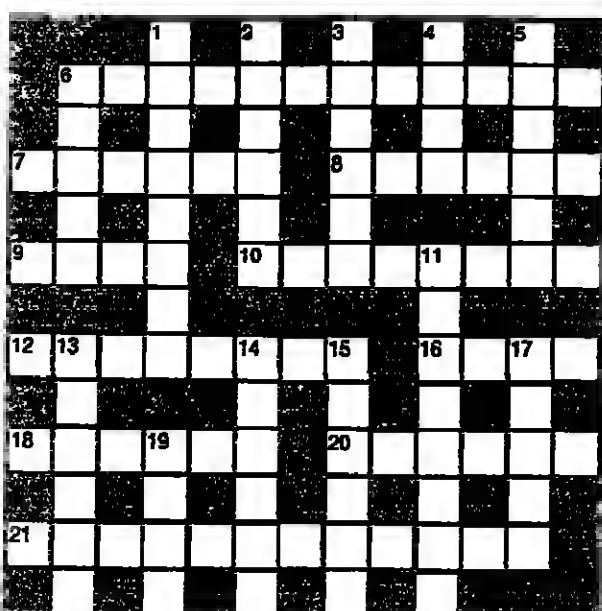
Hockey is intense, but its intensity is private. The most televised, most written about and most followed sports have

the added dimension of public intensity.

The greater the pressures, the more players rise to conquer them or break beneath them. The process is ruthless, and quite riveting. Sport, in its public, professional and televised age, may have lost its innocence: it has gained immeasurably in cruel fascinations.

To meet the hockey players of the year was a pleasant throwback to a different kind of sport: sport before the world's interest became obsessive, before the rewards became colossal and the pressures all but unbearable.

But next weekend, I will not be seeking Old Loughianians. Business as usual: I expect to seek with relish the flowers of corruption.



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: Crosswords on computer (for a 60 puzzles per title — enhanced graphics and help facilities) for all IBM and Acorn PCs. Price £14.95 each. Range includes: The Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15 & 16 (Bkts), The Times Jubilee Puzzles, The Times Concise Crosswords — 3 & 4, The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 and 11 (Bkts), The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords — 1 & 2, Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards. New computer crossword releases: The Times Crosswords 12, The Times Concise Crosswords 5, The Sunday Times Crosswords 12, The Sunday Times Computer Crosswords — Vols 5 & 6 £14.95 each (inc p&p UK).

TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 83

## ACROSS

- 6 Deliberately deceptive appearance (5,7)
- 7 Small error (4,2)
- 8 Place of safety (6)
- 9, 16 Painting with enigmatic smile (4,4)
- 10 Type of university (3)
- 12 Run (8)
- 16 See 9
- 18 Miscellaneous collection (3,3)
- 20 Unit of scale (6)
- 21 Insipid sentiments (4,3,5)

## DOWN

- 1 Oat biscuit (8)
- 2 Riddle with short (6)
- 3 Causing shudders (6)
- 4 Nun's cap (4)
- 5 Calamities: Brahms overture (6)
- 6 Leaf of paper (5)
- 11 Demote (8)
- 13 Foreign, unusual (6)
- 14 Determined (6)
- 16 Oriental warehouse (6)
- 17 Unadulterated (5)
- 19 Red dye (4)

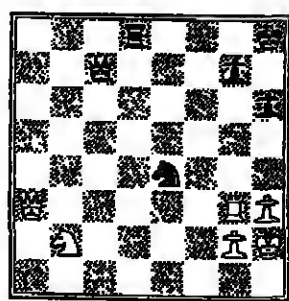
## SOLUTION TO NO 82

- ACROSS: 1 Banger 5 Mash 9 Gambaio 10 Troika 11 Red-clothe 12 Svathe 15 Playe 18 At a pinch 20 Sarsen 22 Extinct 23 Rend 24 Creche
- DOWN: 2 Angler 3 Gambling 4 Roost 6 Ammo 7 Hookah 8 Diest 13 Ambiance 14 Weaned 16 Leader 17 Scotch 19 Anne 21 Soon

WINNING MOVE  
By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Lautier - Timman, FIDE Candidates, Game 2, Wijk aan Zee 1994. With 1... Nxe3 Black will win eventually, but he has a stronger continuation which forces immediate resignation. Can you see it?

Solution, page 40

WORD-WATCHING  
By Philip Howard

## ANTIMERE

- a. An inland sea
- b. A poisonous alkali
- c. The other half

## BIXA

- a. A two-ox cart
- b. A tendon in the arm
- c. A tropical tree

## GNOMOLOGY

- a. Collecting garden gnomes
- b. The study of sundials
- c. A collection of clichés

## FLUSTRATION

- a. Agitation
- b. Tuning a flute
- c. Ritual purification

Answers on page 40

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